

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD
REVISED AGENDA

Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2016
Time: 7:30 pm
Location: Catholic Education Centre - Board Room
802 Drury Lane
Burlington, Ontario

	Pages
1. Call to Order	
1.1 Opening Prayer: P. Dawson	
2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest	
3. Approval of the Agenda	
4. Staff Reports	
4.1 North Georgetown Modified Pupil Accommodation Review - Interim Staff Report (T. Overholt, G. Corbacio, P. McMahon)	1 - 83
4.2 Burlington Southeast Modified Pupil Accommodation Review - Interim Staff Report (T. Overholt, G. Corbacio, P. McMahon)	84 - 315
4.3 Burlington Southwest Modified Pupil Accommodation Review - Interim Staff Report (T. Overholt, G. Corbacio, P. McMahon)	316 - 504
4.4 Oakville South of QEW Modified Pupil Accommodation Review - Interim Staff Report (T. Pinelli, G. Corbacio, P. McMahon)	505 - 614
5. Rise and Report	
5.1 Adjournment	
5.2 Closing Prayer: P. Marai	

STAFF REPORT

ITEM 4.1

**NORTH GEORGETOWN MODIFIED PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW
INTERIM STAFF REPORT**

PURPOSE:

To provide the Board of Trustees with a copy of the **Interim Staff Report** for the North Georgetown Modified Pupil Accommodation Review Report, summarizing the status of the process and presenting the collated community feedback.

BACKGROUND:

1. Information Report 10.4, "2016 Annual Accommodation Review", from the January 19, 2016 Regular Board Meeting.
2. Staff Report 9.2, "2015 School Consolidation Capital Project Proposals", from the January 5, 2016 Regular Board Meeting.
3. Action Report 8.3, "North Georgetown Modified Pupil Accommodation Review", from the January 19, 2016 Regular Board Meeting

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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SUBMITTED BY:

G. CORBACIO, SUPERINTENDENT OF FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES
P. MCMAHON, SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS SERVICES AND TREASURER OF THE BOARD
T. OVERHOLT, SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL SERVICES

REPORT APPROVED BY:

P. DAWSON, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND SECRETARY OF THE BOARD



Modified Pupil Accommodation Review Interim Staff Report

**North Georgetown Community:
North Georgetown Catholic Elementary School**

March 22, 2016

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1.0 Executive Summary

At the January 19, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Board, Trustees approved a recommendation to undertake a Modified Pupil Accommodation Review (MPAR) for the North Georgetown Community, an area bounded by No. 32 Side Road the north, Winston Churchill Boulevard to the East, the Credit River and 15 Side Road to the South and generally Fifth Line and Fourth Line to the west – see Appendix F. This review area is comprised of the following schools: Holy Cross School and St. Francis of Assisi School.

Staff presented an Initial Staff Report that recommended one (1) option to address long-term declining enrolment, underutilized accommodation issues, and Holy Cross School's ongoing site and facility issues. In addition, the report provided context about the considerations made in developing the recommended option as well as the rationale for undertaking a Modified Pupil Accommodation Review (MPAR) for the North Georgetown Community.

The recommended option consisted of a **consolidation of the two (2) affected schools into one (1) rebuilt 671 pupil place school on the Berton Site**, located in the Georgetown West area, previously purchased in 2004 for the contemplated rebuild of Holy Cross School. The scenario consisted of all students in the review area be accommodated in a proposed new Georgetown North School, to be constructed on the Berton site for the 2017-18 school year, at the earliest.

The Initial Staff Report included the following resources and can be found online:

- A) Documentation of required work completed prior to the accommodation review;
- B) Summary of background data used in option developed by staff;
- C) Summary of accommodation issues for the schools under review; and,
- D) Preferred accommodation option.

Following the January 19, 2016 Board approval to undertake an MPAR, Staff proceeded to notify the community about the accommodation review process as well as solicit feedback on the proposed accommodation plan. All information was made available through the Board's website (www.hcdsb.org).

Staff took the opportunity to present the recommended scenario to the two (2) local parent/school councils and school staff at both (2) schools, the Town of Halton Hills, and to the wider community through the Community Consultation Meeting (CCM), held on March 3, 2016, at Christ the King Catholic Secondary School (CSS). A summary of the full communications tactics is presented as Appendix A.

An online forum was also developed to enable the community to have a shared dialogue about the proposal. The forum was made available beginning on January 27, 2016. In addition to the forum, a three (3) question on-line survey was made available from February 17 to March 11, 2016. All communication shared in the online forum and survey are attached as Appendix B and Appendix C, respectively.

The Community Consultation Meetings also provided an opportunity for parents and stakeholders to submit comments and questions for Board staff to address. A summary package of the information gathered at the CCM and the “parking lot questions” and answers are attached as Appendix D and Appendix E, respectively. Questions that Staff were not able to answer at the CCM were added to the parking lot. Answers to the parking lot questions were subsequently uploaded to the Board website one (1) week following the CCM.

A summary of the communication process is as follows:

1. Board website updated on January 20, 2016 – Pupil Accommodation Review button placed prominently on the landing page of the website. Updates ongoing.
2. Email letters and FAQ sheet distributed to each parent and staff member in the impacted school communities on January 20, 2016. Follow up emails sent to parents on January 27, February 17, February 26, and March 14, 2016.
3. Copy of letter to Staff and an FAQ sheet shared with Presidents of Unionized Employee Groups on January 20, 2016.
4. Letter sent via email to Holy Cross Parish Pastor on January 26, 2016.
5. Hardcopy letters hand-delivered on January 26, 2016 to neighbours and residents adjacent to and abutting the two school communities.
6. Online discussion forum; available from January 27, 2016
(www.muut.com/north-georgetown-mpar)
7. Media Release – Distributed January 28, 2016.
8. Letters sent to Regional Chair, Mayor of Halton Hills and Local Councillors, and Member of Provincial Parliament for Halton Hills on January 29, 2016.
9. Presentations to School Staff
(January 28, 2016 at Holy Cross and February 10, 2016 at St. Francis of Assisi)
10. Presentations to Catholic School Councils
(February 3, 2016 at Holy Cross and February 22, 2016 at St. Francis of Assisi)
11. An online survey was made available February 17 to March 11, 2016.
12. School newsletter/website message was provided to schools.
13. Community Consultation Meeting on March 3, 2016, at Christ the King CSS
 - a. Parking Lot Questions – posted online Tuesday, March 14, 2016
 - b. Transcribed Table Discussions

Staff will present to Trustees at the March 22, 2016 Special Meeting of the Board the feedback and input that has been gathered to date. On April 5, 2016, The Board of Trustees will receive delegations from the community regarding the Georgetown Schools Consolidation Proposal. The information received from the delegations and any other pertinent information will be included in the Final Report to the Board. The Final Report will be presented to Trustees as an Action Item at the April 19, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Board, when a final decision and approval by the Board is anticipated.

2.0 Initial Staff Report Summary

2.1 Annual School Board Planning

Planning Staff develop a number of reports on an annual basis in support of school accommodation planning. The outcomes of these reports indicate that declining enrolment and need for facility upgrades is a reality in the Georgetown North review area. This finding aligns with Staff's initial recommended option to consolidate two (2) schools in Georgetown North to address declining enrolment trends in the area and the need to provide a replacement facility for Holy Cross School.

2.1.1 15-Year Projection Update

A December 15, 2015, report to Board contained a 15 year forecast of enrolment projections for the Region of Halton. In the context of the **CEH1: – Halton Hills** Review Area, Staff projected that enrolment would continue to decline over the next fifteen (15) year period, leaving the school facilities within the area underutilized.

2.1.2 LTCP and Annual Facilities Accommodation Report

The Long Term Capital Plan (LTCP) is released on a five year cycle for the entire Region of Halton, and was most recently updated in June 2013. This document compiles the Board's long term enrolment projections and contemplates future projects for creating new pupil places, renewing school facilities, and removing excess pupil places from the Board's inventory through pupil accommodation reviews.

The LTCP is a living document that is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure changing trends are reflected in the plan. The LTCP can be accessed on the Board's website:

<http://www.hcdsb.org/Board/LTCP/Pages/default.aspx>

The 2013 Long Term Capital Plan acknowledged a combination of declining enrolment in the north Georgetown area, combined with some growth within the rural areas (currently directed towards St. Francis of Assisi School). The plan **suggested that a replacement facility for**

Holy Cross School be undertaken and reduce overall renewal needs by removing aging schools from the Board's building inventory.

In addition, as part of the Board's annual review for the 2015-16 school year, Staff completed its Annual Facility Accommodation Report, as per the requirements of Operating Policy I-37: Community Planning & Facilities Partnerships, and presented the report to community stakeholders on January 18, 2016.

Staff determined that the Capital Plan for Georgetown could not be achieved due to further declining enrolment at Holy Cross School. These declines resulted in a rebuild at Holy Cross School being deemed unfeasible on its own. Further, a boundary review to redirect students from St. Francis of Assisi into Holy Cross School would simply redirect the enrolment imbalance and not resolve it. The Ministry would not be in a position to fund a scenario that increases the number of empty classrooms in a given area. In this report Staff has identified an alternate strategy for North Georgetown wherein a consolidation could be undertaken and surplus pupil places eliminated from the Board's inventory.

2.1.3 Consultation with Local & Regional Municipalities

On an ongoing basis, as a part of the yearly review of accommodation needs and the daily operations of the Planning Services Department, Staff consults with local municipalities and receives planning information on a number of development related matters.

This information is used in the development of short and long-term enrolment forecasts, and the determination of future Board accommodation needs in both established and new neighbourhoods. Staff regularly liaise with municipal staff to discuss future needs within the target municipalities, and align future capital investments wherever feasible (i.e. park facilities, childcare, city services).

As part of the MPAR process, Staff met with the Town of Halton Hills on February 10, 2016 to discuss the proposed accommodation plans for the North Georgetown accommodation review areas. Town staff were supportive of the proposal, and are now aware of potential future dispositions.

2.2 Accommodation Review Area Overview

The **North Georgetown** Accommodation Review Area is located within the **CEH1 Halton Hills review area** as identified in the Board's 2013 Long-Term Capital Plan, both of which are displayed geographically in Appendix F. The two (2) elementary schools located within the Accommodation Review Area include Holy Cross School, and St. Francis of Assisi School. The boundary of the accommodation review area is comprised of the two (2) aforementioned school boundaries combined, shown in Appendix G.

A cursory overview of each affected school within the review area is summarized below in Table 1, and is further supplemented by the information found within the School Information Profiles (SIPs), found in Appendix C of the Initial Staff Report, which was presented to Board on January 19, 2016.

Table 1 Historic & Projected Enrolment North Georgetown Review Area

School Name	OTG	2011	2015	2020	2025	Original Construction	FCI	Site Size
Holy Cross CES	478	460	426	410	418	1958	51%	6.78 ac.
		96%	89%	86%	88%			
St. Francis of Assisi CES	368	420	357	355	307	1973	35%	3.46 ac.
		116%	98%	98%	85%			
Head Count	841	880	783	765	726			
Utilization (%)		105%	93%	91%	86%			
Surplus Space (+,-)		-39	58	76	115			

The geographic area covered by the Holy Cross School is considered by Staff to be a predominantly maturing neighbourhood, as enrolment has been decreasing over the last five (5) years and is expected to continue decreasing over the long term as neighbourhoods continue to age, as demonstrated in Table 1. As for the St. Francis of Assisi School, the area covered by the school continues to have the benefit of receiving some development growth to sustain its enrolment, which is predominantly located within the rural estate areas on the periphery of the urban boundary, and outside the immediate neighbourhoods located near the school.

Notwithstanding the presence of growth, over the course of the past five (5) years (2011-2015), enrolment within the affected area has seen an overall decline of approximately 11%, and is projected to decline an additional 6% by 2020 (5 year), and by 9% by 2025 (10 year). It is the anticipated rate of decline will remain stable over a 10 year period, averaged by a gradual yearly decline of 1%.

The overall utilization of schools within the **Georgetown North** accommodation review area is anticipated to continue decreasing over the next ten (10) years as the neighbourhood continues to mature. Today, the overall utilization rate is approximately 93%. It is projected that declines will begin in 2018, to a utilization of 86% over a 10 year period, just below the 90% optimal utilization that the Board seeks to achieve as a benchmark.

A boundary review has already been completed for the Georgetown Community to regulate enrolment pressures throughout, assisting in the continued sustained enrolment for Holy Cross School (the projections above reflect the impacts of the boundary change approved in 2016). Note Holy Cross School is unable to accommodate portable classrooms. Although enrolment

and utilization rates are considered healthy, the current accommodation issues are grounded in the facility condition of Holy Cross School that requires significant investment.

As an additional verification, staff retained Watson and Associates to conduct a peer review of the enrolment projections generated by staff, completed a demographic analysis of the affected areas served by the three (3) schools, and the merit of the proposal presented in the Initial Staff Report. The peer review confirmed staff's long term projections, and concluded that the proposed school consolidation project was viable and met the conditions set out by the Ministry of Education.

2.2.1 Enrolment Projections

Table 2 below illustrates the enrolment projections for the schools within the **Georgetown North** accommodation review area. As mentioned previously, the enrolment projections were reviewed and supported by third party consultants (Watson and Associates).

Table 2: Projected Enrolment – North Georgetown Accommodation Review Area

School Name	OTG	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Holy Cross CES	478	426	453	440	436	435	410	420	417	420	424	418
		89%	95%	92%	91%	91%	86%	88%	87%	88%	89%	88%
St. Francis of Assisi CES	368	357	367	355	345	343	355	352	356	341	325	307
		98%	101%	98%	95%	94%	98%	97%	98%	94%	90%	85%
Head Count	841	783	820	794	782	778	765	772	772	761	749	726
Utilization (%)		93%	98%	94%	93%	92%	91%	92%	92%	91%	89%	86%
Surplus Space (+,-)		58	21	47	59	63	76	69	69	80	92	115

2.2.2 Academic Programs

As part of the recommendation, Staff seek to re-direct all existing programs offered at the three (3) affected schools to the proposed new North Georgetown School, all of which are part of the Christ the King Catholic Secondary School Family of Schools. Accordingly, the newly constructed North Georgetown School will offer the regular track JK-8 program, with two self-contained programs, being the Structure Teaching Classroom (STC) and Essential Skills Classroom (ESC).

All programming will be in conformity with the Board's long-term strategy in offering a 21st Century Learning experience.

Program offerings at the proposed North Georgetown School was a predominant discussion topic throughout the community consultation processes. As part of the recommendation, staff seeks to re-direct all existing programs offered at the two (2) affected schools to the new

North Georgetown School. The newly constructed school will offer the regular JK-8 program, Extended French Immersion from Grade 5-8 (note: program under review with Early French Immersion), and one self-contained special education program. It should also be noted that with a larger school population, additional programming options could be explored if there is an interest from the community.

2.2.3 Facility Condition Index (FCI)

Using a 5-year renewal needs, an FCI can be calculated. Table 3 below summarizes the 5-year FCI for the two (2) affected schools within the **North Georgetown** accommodation review area.

Table 3: Facility Condition Index Summary

SCHOOL NAME	ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION	OTG	5 YEAR RENEWAL NEEDS	REPLACEMENT VALUE	FACILITY CONDITION INDEX
Holy Cross CES	1959	478	\$4,989,213	\$9,733,630	51 %
St. Francis Assisi CES	1973	363	\$2,757,212	\$7,804,490	35 %
TOTAL	1966 (avg.)	841	\$7,746,425	\$17,538,120	43% (avg.)

The average age of the facilities within the accommodation review area is approximately 50 years with construction dates ranging from 1958 to 1973. Facilities within the age range of Holy Cross School typically have many critical building components that are reaching the end of their useful lifecycle.

The average Facility Condition Index of the two (2) facilities is approximately 43%, with a total 5-year renewal need of approximately \$7.7M dollars and a collective replacement value of approximately \$17.5M. It is important to note that the facility renewal costs account primarily for the replacement of critical building components and does not account for improvement items, such as accessibility, fire safety improvements, LED lighting, natural kindergarten playgrounds and other modernization improvements that would have the effect of improving programming or energy efficiency.

Moreover, the on-the-ground (OTG) of the two facilities within the accommodation review area are below the optimal school facility size of 500-671 pupil places.

2.2.4 School Site Description

The site conditions at the two (2) facilities within the accommodation review area can be summarized as shown in Table 4. Furthermore, Figure 1 demonstrates that the current Holy

Cross School has additional site constraints. The school is situated on a flood plain at the top of a significant slope and has a very narrow site with limited access opportunities.

As a result, Holy Cross School is not able to accommodate any portable classrooms on site. The former parish to the southwest of the school has also been sold and converted to a senior's residence use, eliminating the Board's previous ability to expand parking and bus drop off on the already constrained Holy Cross School site.

Being located on a slope that plateaus on a flood plain, the playground space is only accessible by way of 70 stairs and 5 landings. This stairway slope is similar to a 5-storey stairwell. As a result, the playground is not accessible to anyone with mobility issues. It is expected that in order to make the current Holy Cross School fully accessible by 2025, the cost would be significant given the current accessibility issues vis-à-vis accessing the playground area and the multi-levels of the school building.

A preliminary assessment of the cost to introduce an accessible access ramp structure to the play area is currently being conducted by the Board through a third party consultant. It is anticipated that the project would be a sizeable investment to meet current AODA standards – schools mandated to be compliant by 2025 by the ministry of Education. Note that this cost is not a component in the current renewal cost analysis.

This said, although the Holy Cross School site is well above the optimal acreage to construct a new school, it is not regular in shape and has a very restrictive topography.

Figure 1: Holy Cross CES Site Accessibility and Construction Constraints

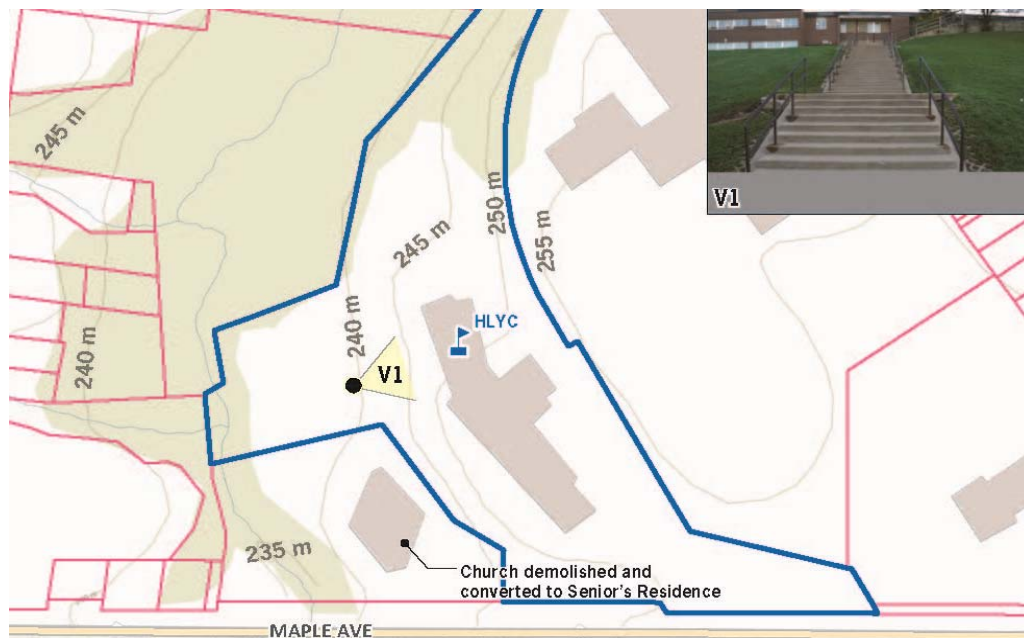


Table 4: Option Development Criteria Summary – North Georgetown Community

SCHOOL	SITE SIZE (ACRES)	SITE DESCRIPTION
Holy Cross CES	6.71	Preferred site size, however: site is irregular in shape (see Figure 1) and is on the side of a hill elevation; significant limitations on using the full acreage for play areas. Significant accessibility issues with playfield needing to be accessed by 70 stairs. Inability to accommodate portable classrooms. School built on a hill.
St. Francis of Assisi CES	3.46	Undersized site. Inadequate parking and bus loading area, and play yard is quite small.

Table 5 below details how each school, in its current state, meets the preferred development criteria to be considered when reviewing pupil accommodation options.

Table 5: Option Development Criteria Summary – North Georgetown Community

CRITERIA	HOLY CROSS CES	ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CES
Facility Utilization between 90-125%	No	Yes
500-671 FBC/OTG	No	No
Portable Classroom Needs	Cannot Accommodate	No
Fully Accessible	No	No
Transportation Time	Well below maximum travel times, comparable to the Board average of 14 minutes.	For the Urban Area, well below maximum travel times, comparable to the Board average of 14 minutes. For the Rural Area, in line with the 60 minute travel time policy.
Average Distance to School	2.47 kilometers	3.82 kilometers
Site Size (Approx. 5+ acres)	Preferred size, but with significant limitation on usage of full acreage – significant AODA issues need to be addressed (6.71 acres)	Under preferred size (3.46 acres)
Adjacent Uses	Flood Plain/ravine; Public Secondary School; Future retirement facility	Residential; Church
Site Limitation	Cannot accommodate any classroom portables; site not accessible for play area; no additions possible; located on top of a flood plain.	Cannot accommodate more than 6 portable classrooms; No further additions to the school possible

2.2.5 Transportation Summary Data

Current transportation data was provided by the Halton Student Transportation Service (HSTS). Student data was derived from the 2015-16 school year, and aggregated as displayed in Table 6.

As of the December 31, 2015, transportation data, there are a total of 423 transported students within the **North Georgetown Neighbourhood**. A preliminary analysis of the proposed attendance boundary for the proposed school estimates that a total of 667 students would be eligible for transportation, which is 85% of the student school population.

HSTS has informed staff that for the 2015-16 school year, the average bus times for students enrolled in the Regular Track program of the Board is approximately 14 minutes for more urban area. As for the rural areas, the average rural area travel times range between 30-55 minutes. The proposed plan anticipates similar times.

Table 6: Transportation Summary Data for Status Quo

SCHOOL NAME	TOTAL STUDENTS	ELIGIBLE RIDERS ¹	COURTESY RIDERS	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS	AVERAGE DISTANCE
Holy Cross CES	428	214	12	226	53%	2.47 km
St. Francis Assisi CES	357	209	3	212	59%	3.82 km
TOTAL	785	423	15	438	54%	3.15 km

NOTE: As per the HSTS Operating Procedure HS-1-003 – Eligibility Factors, elementary students that reside more than 1.6 kilometers from their home school are eligible for transportation. Eligibility for transportation may also be granted in instances where there are potential safety hazards along the student route. See Appendix J Walking Map.

2.2.6 Meeting Program Needs and Accessibility Standards

21st Century Learning environments require flexible spaces that can be used for multiple purposes, including group collaboration, breakout meetings and one-to-one teaching. All facilities within the accommodation review area were evaluated against the Board's standard for the construction of new school facilities for several programming criteria. The results of this evaluation are summarized in Table 7.

Table 7: Facility Programming Needs

CRITERIA	BENCHMARK	HOLY CROSS CES	ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CES
Gymnasium	Double gym	Single gym	Single gym
Kindergarten Space	1,100 m ² with washroom	Adequate	Adequate
Resource Rooms/Space	~1 Resource room per 100 pupil places	Inadequate	Inadequate
Program Teacher Workspace	Workstation + resource storage	Inadequate	Inadequate
Accessibility	AODA Standards	Inadequate	Adequate

2.3 Initial Staff Report Recommendation

Staff is recommending the consolidation of the two (2) affected schools (namely Holy Cross School, and St. Francis of Assisi School) into a **newly constructed 671 pupil place facility located on the Berton Boulevard Site (purchased in 2004 for a Holy Cross replacement facility) for the 2017-18 school year**. In addition, the Board is also proposing to construct an 88 space five (5) room child-care centre as a wing to the new facility.

To fund the project, the Board is requesting **\$15,921,315** for the North Georgetown Community School Project **which consists of \$13,400,465 SCC Funding and \$2,520,850 Child Care Funding**.

Staff recommends that the following actions be taken within the **North Georgetown Community** accommodation review area:

- 1) Construct a 671 pupil place elementary facility on the existing site for the 2017-2018 school year, with an 88 space five (5) room child-care centre wing;
- 2) Close the existing Holy Cross School and St. Francis of Assisi School facilities;
- 3) Seek Board approval to dispose of both surplus school facilities through the Ontario Regulation 444/98 disposition process.

As demonstrated in Table 8, below, the proposed accommodation plan would have the effect of removing a total of 170 surplus pupil places, and would result in an average 10 year utilization of approximately 112%. This plan will also allow for a number of operational and capital/renewal savings over a 15 year period as well as ensure that programming, accessibility standards, and energy efficiency will be significantly enhanced with the construction of a new state of the art facility.

As part of the recommendation, staff also seeks to re-direct all existing programs offered at the two (2) affected schools to the proposed new North Georgetown School. The newly constructed school will offer the regular JK-8 program, Extended French Immersion from Grade 5-8, and one self-contained special education program.

Table 8: Projection – North Georgetown School

School Name	OTG	Opening	5 year projection					10 year projection				
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
North Georgetown Community School	671	794	782	778	765	772	772	761	749	726	709	691
		118%	117%	116%	114%	115%	115%	113%	112%	108%	106%	103%
Head Count	671	794	782	778	765	772	772	761	749	726	709	691
Utilization (%)		118%	117%	116%	114%	115%	115%	113%	112%	108%	106%	103%
Surplus Space (+,-)		-123	-111	-107	-94	-101	-101	-90	-78	-55	-38	-20

2.3.1 Walking and Transportation Considerations

A preliminary analysis of the proposed attendance boundary for the proposed North Georgetown School estimates that a total of 667 students would be eligible for transportation, which is 85% of the student school population. The average distance for students to the new school is approximately 4.84 kilometers (max distance of 6.87 kilometers urban/16.04 kilometers rural), which is an increase of 1.69 km to the current average. Below, Table 9 summarizes the current situation and the proposed solution:

Table 9: Transportation Comparison Summary

SCHOOL NAME	TOTAL STUDENTS (OCTOBER 2015)	ELIGIBLE RIDERS (DECEMBER 2015)	PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS	AVERAGE DISTANCE	TOTAL BUSSING COST
Status Quo	785	423	54%	3.15 km	\$389,000
Proposed Solution	785	667	85%	4.84 km	\$372,000
Difference		+244	+31%	+1.69 km	-\$17,000

The Halton Student Transportation Service (HSTS), confirms that although a higher number of students will be transported, with the use of a higher distribution of large buses over small buses, the annual busing costs are anticipated to decrease by approximately \$17,000. Costs

will drop as enrolment declines. Please refer to Appendix J for an estimated walking distance map.

The transportation needs cost estimate analysis conducted by HSTS reviewed the current number of vehicle routes operating in the affected area and compared it to the consolidation proposal by completing proposed routes based on the new boundary to calculate the number of future busing route needs. The projected costs assumed an increase in route costs (inflation) over two (2) years and route sharing with the co-terminus board (HDSB). Further savings are anticipated depending on the overall program needs in the future of both boards, which at this time have not been considered.

2.3.2 Current vs. Proposed Capital Cost Savings

Currently, the 5 year renewal needs for the two (2) affected schools amount to approximately \$7.7M, which is expected to rise to approximately \$9.75M over a 15 year period. At 5 years, this total amounts to 58% of the proposed consolidation project construction cost of \$13.4M, and at 10 years, 67% of the construction and renewal costs for a new school facility. This information is summarized in Table 10 and in Figure 2.

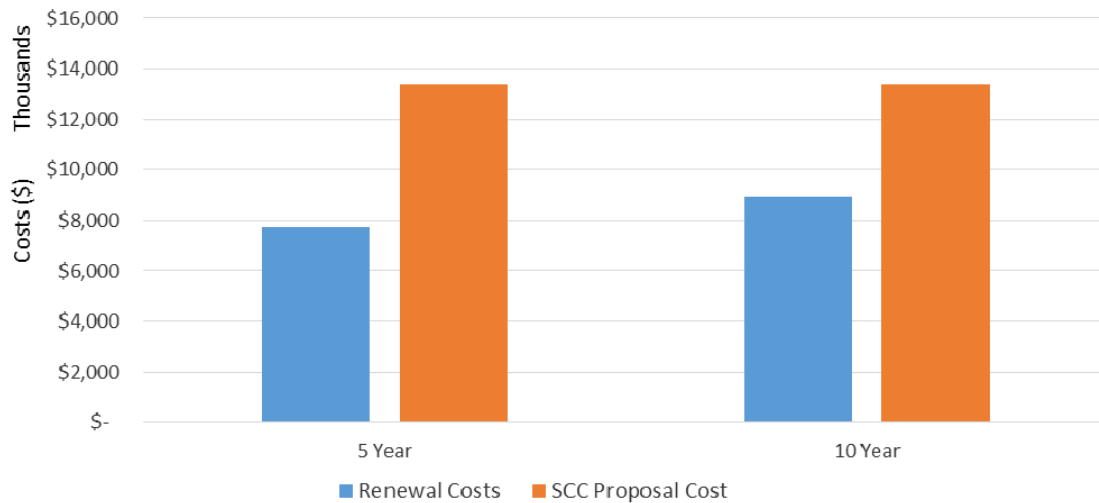
If renewal cost avoidance is combined with operational savings (discussed in Section 2.3.3), the payback period would be within approximately 15 years.

Note that renewal needs would not account for any required investments to update existing facilities with current accessibility, fire code improvements, LED lighting, natural kindergarten playgrounds and other modernization improvements that this project would have the effect of introducing.

Table 10: Capital Cost Comparison

Existing Schools	Code	5 Year	10 Year
Holy Cross CES	HLYC	\$4,989,213	\$5,531,616
St. Francis of Assisi CES	FRAN	\$2,757,212	\$3,389,460
Total North Georgetown Review Area Cost (\$)		\$7,746,425	\$8,921,076
New North Georgetown School	Capital	\$13,400,465	\$13,400,465
	Renewal	\$-	\$-
Total North Georgetown School Cost (\$)		\$13,400,465	\$13,400,465

Figure 2: Capital Cost Comparison



2.3.3 Current vs. Proposed Operating Cost Savings

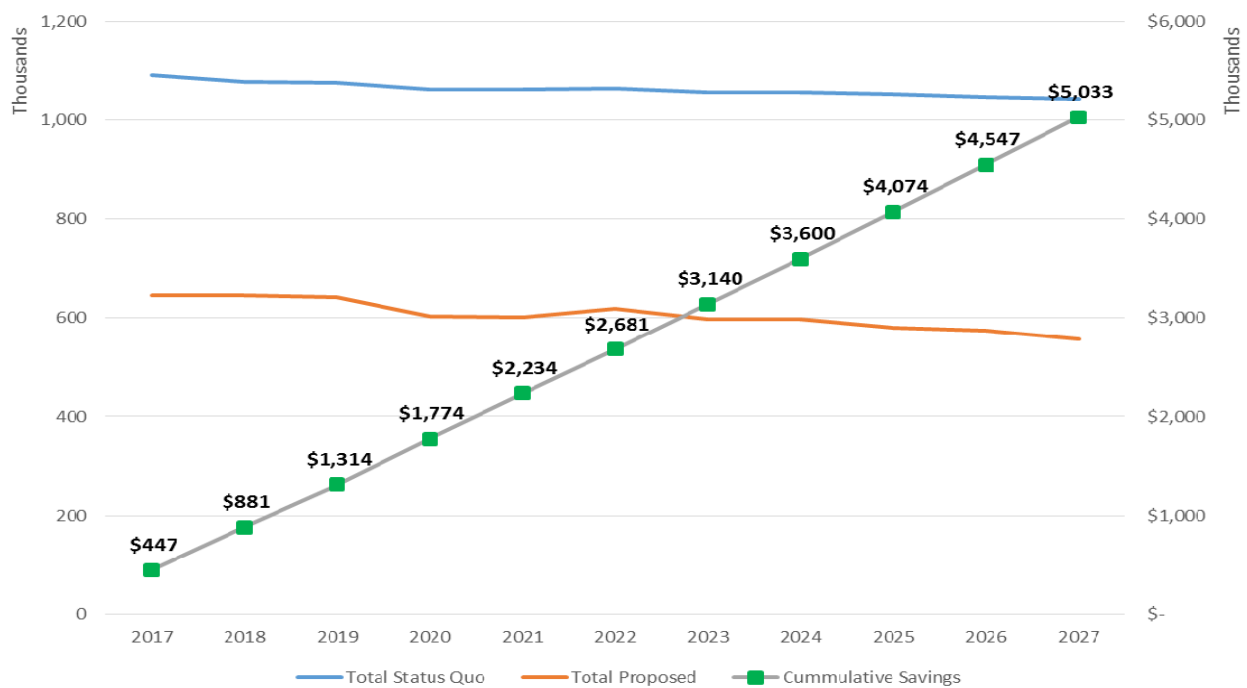
As part of this cost analysis, operating expenses include: maintenance costs, custodial costs, utilities (electric, gas, water), portable classroom costs, and transportation costs. Staffing cost considerations have not been included at this current time, but are anticipated to result in additional cost savings. Refer to Table 11 for a cost breakdown, and Figure 3 for an annual cost comparison.

Currently, the annual operating expenditure for the two (2) existing schools is estimated at \$885,210 dollars. The proposed solution of a consolidated school, operating expenditure comparable to the most recent build was used. The yearly proposed option's operating cost savings are estimated to start at \$176,390 and reach \$243,699 a year once portable classroom needs are reduced. Overall, cumulative savings would reach \$2,454,332 over a 10 year period.

Table 11: Annual Operational Cost Comparison

		2017	2022	2027
Status Quo	Operational Costs	\$496,210	\$496,210	\$496,210
	Transportation Costs	\$389,000	\$353,324	\$327,429
	Portable Classroom Costs	\$-	\$-	\$-
	Total Status Quo	\$885,210	\$849,534	\$823,639
Proposed Option	Operational Costs	\$266,820	\$266,820	\$266,820
	Transportation Costs	\$372,000	\$337,883	\$313,119
	Portable Classroom Costs	\$70,000	\$28,000	\$-
	Total Proposed Option	\$708,820	\$632,703	\$579,939
Annual Savings		\$176,390	\$216,831	\$243,699
Cumulative Savings		\$176,390	\$1,261,726	\$2,454,332

Figure 3: Annual Operational Cost Comparison



3.0 Consultation Process and Feedback Gathered

Staff acknowledged from the beginning that the process of school consolidations will have a significant impact on school communities. Thus, gathering as much community feedback as possible will help better inform Staff of the community's needs, and provide trustees with a breadth of knowledge of the community's outlook on the proposal. The following subsection summarizes the feedback gathered to date.

3.1 Notification Methods

Board Staff have made every effort to ensure the community was adequately notified of the Board's approval of the Modified Pupil Accommodation Review process being undertaken in North Georgetown.

A summary of the communication process is as follows:

1. Board website updated on January 20, 2016 – Pupil Accommodation Review button placed prominently on the landing page of the website. Updates ongoing.
2. Email letters and FAQ sheet distributed to each parent and staff member in the impacted school communities on January 20, 2016. Follow up emails sent to parents on January 27, February 17, February 26, and March 14, 2016.
3. Copy of letter to Staff and an FAQ sheet shared with Presidents of Unionized Employee Groups on January 20, 2016.
4. Letter sent via email to Holy Cross Parish Pastor on January 26, 2016.
5. Hardcopy letters hand-delivered on January 26, 2016 to neighbours and residents adjacent to and abutting the two school communities.
6. Online discussion forum; available from January 27, 2016
(www.muut.com/north-georgetown-mpar)
7. Media Release – Distributed January 28, 2016
8. Letters sent to Regional Chair, Mayor of Halton Hills and Local Councillors, and Member of Provincial Parliament for Halton Hills on January 29, 2016.
9. Presentations to School Staff
(January 28, 2016 at Holy Cross and February 10, 2016 at St. Francis of Assisi)
10. Presentations to Catholic School Councils
(February 3, 2016 at Holy Cross and February 22, 2016 at St. Francis of Assisi)
11. An online survey was made available February 17 to March 11, 2016.
12. School newsletter/website message was provided to schools.
13. Community Consultation Meeting on March 3, 2016, at Christ the King CSS
 - a. Parking Lot Questions – posted online Tuesday, March 14, 2016
 - b. Transcribed Table Discussions

3.2 Feedback Opportunities

A number of opportunities were provided for the community to provide their feedback on Staff's recommended proposal. This information was gathered and collated by Staff, and attached as Appendices B, C and D. The following subsections summarize each opportunity provided to the community to comment on the proposal.

3.2.1 Catholic School Council / Staff Presentations

Staff met with Holy Cross and St. Francis of Assisi School Staff on January 28, 2016 and February 10, 2016, respectively. Staff visited with Catholic School Councils at Holy Cross School and St. Francis of Assisi School on February 3 and February 22, 2016, respectively.

A presentation was provided which offered an overview of why a Modified PAR was recommended and how Staff arrived at the recommended option to consolidate into a proposed new school on the Berton Boulevard school site. Staff informed attendees about the next steps in the MPAR process and the various ways to provide input.

3.2.2 Online Discussion Forum

An online discussion forum has been active for parents and community members since January 27, 2016. A link to register for the online forum was provided by email, through the school newsletter, and also posted on the Board's website.

# of Registered Users	# of Active Users (Posted Comments)	Total # of Comments Posted
62	9	10

A total of 62 users registered on the forum. Many of the predominant themes from the forum have been echoed at the Community Consultation Meeting. The forum is still active and we continue to receive comments. A complete record of what was posted on the forum as of March 16, 2016, is available in Appendix B.

3.2.3 Online Survey

Between the dates of February 17, 2016, to March 11, 2016, the Strategic Communications Department opened an online survey portal that contained the same three (3) questions that were to be presented at the Community Consultation Meeting on March 3, 2016.

A total of 51 survey responses were received from community members. Please refer to Appendix C for a preliminary analysis of the online survey results completed by the Research and Development Services Department.

3.2.4 Community Consultation Meeting (CCM)

A Community Consultation Meeting was hosted on March 3, 2016 at Christ the King CSS. Prior to the meeting, 70 members of the community pre-registered to attend, 45 attended including 6 that had not pre-registered. This represents approximately 6% of the total population of school aged children attending the three affected schools. Table 12 below summarizes who attended the meeting, and which boundaries the attendees are geographically located. A map this information is provided in Appendix K.

The format of the Community Consultation Meeting (CCM) started with staff providing parents and community members with an information session of the review process, the recommended option, and the concerns and feedback received to that point in time. The attendees were seated around tables in groups of up to ten (10) with one (1) staff or parent volunteer acting as a scribe. Three (3) questions were posed to the attendees (the same as the online survey), which included the following:

- 1) What do you like best about the proposed plan?
- 2) What challenges do you see with the proposed plan?
- 3) Do you have any suggestions to improve the proposed plan?

Each attendee at the table had an opportunity to respond to each question, and had their response recorded by the scribe. The results of the table discussions were compiled and are attached as Appendix D.

Although there was no open question session, during the breakout session, Staff were available to address any comments and concerns in a small group setting. Additional questions from the community were collected on large pads of paper (for all to see) for parents to record their questions and receive a formal response from Staff. Once reviewed, Staff compiled the answers to the question and posted them on the Board website. These questions are referred to as 'Parking Lot Questions', and are attached as Appendix E.

Table 12: Breakdown of Community Consultation Attendance

School Name	2015 Enrolment	Registered	Walk Ins	Attending Registrants	Did not Attend	TOTAL Attendance
Holy Cross	426	36	4	18	18	22
		8%	1%	4%	4%	5%
St. Francis of Assisi	357	34	2	21	13	23
		10%	1%	6%	4%	6%
Out of Bounds	NA	12	3	4	8	7
TOTAL	841	82	9	43	39	52
		10%	1%	5%	5%	6%

4.0 Transition Planning Overview

If the Board of Trustees approves staff's recommendation or part thereof, it is required under Administrative Procedure VI-35: School Accommodation Review – Closure/Consolidation, that a Transition Committee be established.

The accommodation transition may undertake the following process after final approval from the Board and the Ministry is received and funding is granted to proceed with the project:

- Re-locate all Holy Cross School and St. Francis of Assisi School students to the new North Georgetown School facility once construction of the 671 pupil facility is complete – portable classrooms will be required;
- Once all students are relocated to the new North Georgetown School facility, Holy Cross School and St. Francis of Assisi School will close, and will be circulated for sale to public agencies under Ontario Regulation 444/98.

A Transition Committee is only undertaken in the event that the Board of Trustees approves the recommended option and that Ministry Funding is approved and made available. In absence of these approvals, no change occurs.

Considerations of the Transition Committee could also include but not be limited to;

- Moving Logistics
- Home/School/Parish connections
- Transition of students
- School Organization
- School Name
- School Logo
- School Uniforms

- School Finances and Purchases
- School Closing Events
- School Community Introductions and Transition Activities
- Memorabilia, Art, Photographs and other school history
- Transition of Technology (iPads, laptops, smartboards)

Staff believes the recommended option will minimize the negative impacts for students and families. Dividing school communities is avoided in this option. Furthermore, this proposal includes a significant investment in the area, providing students and teachers with a state of the art teaching and learning facility.

5.0 Final Recommendation Option

In the Initial Staff Report presented to the Board of Trustees on January 19, 2016, only one (1) option was recommended by Staff for the **North Georgetown** accommodation review area. This option, which consolidates two (2) existing elementary schools into one new build has been reviewed by a third party consultant, Watson and Associates, and confirmed the declining enrolment trends as well as the viability of the proposed school consolidation project. The subsections summarize Staff's final recommendation to the Board.

5.1 Accommodation Plan

Based on the needs of students, staff recommends that the following actions be taken within the **North Georgetown** accommodation review area:

- 1) Construct a 671 pupil place elementary facility on the existing site for the 2017-2018 school year, with an 88 space five (5) room child care centre wing;
- 2) Close the existing Holy Cross School and St. Francis of Assisi School facilities;
- 3) Seek Board approval to dispose of both surplus school facilities through the Ontario Regulation 444/98 disposition process.

It should be noted that some comments were received as per the value of having an integrated child care centre with the Region. Staff maintains that the possible introduction of an 88 place child care centre would be an asset to the Board and surrounding community.

Table 13 and Figure 4 present the enrolment projections of the proposed North Georgetown School project.

It is important to note that portable classrooms are projected to be required in the first years of the proposed new school opening, depending on classroom organization. This is typical of any new build as the intent is to construct for long term needs and prevent constructing space

that will be empty in the long term. The community has expressed concern about the projected number of portable classrooms that may be required for a number of.

Table 13: Projection – Proposed North Georgetown School Project

		Opening	5 year projection					10 year projection				
School Name	OTG	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
North Georgetown Community CES	671	794	782	778	765	772	772	761	749	726	709	691
		118%	117%	116%	114%	115%	115%	113%	112%	108%	106%	103%
Surplus Space (+,-)		-123	-111	-107	-94	-101	-101	-90	-78	-55	-38	-20

Figure 4: Projection – Proposed North Georgetown School Project

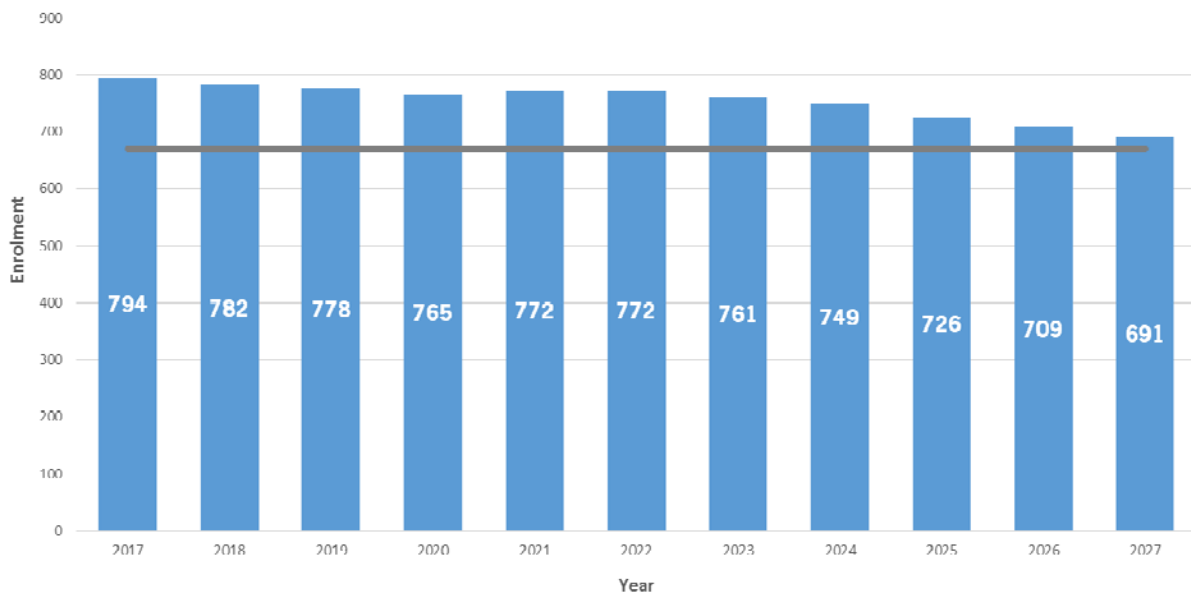


Table 14 below summarizes the evaluation of the Proposed School Consolidation option based on the staff defined criteria (introduced in Table 1 of the Initial Staff Report) to measure the viability of the proposed accommodation plan.

Table 14: Projection – Proposed North Georgetown School Project

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED NORTH GEORGETOWN SCHOOL (NEW BUILD)	(✓)
Facility Utilization between 90-125%	The optimal utilization for a school facility is between 90-125% to ensure that operational funding (both staffing and facility) is maximized on a by pupil basis. Situations where utilization is above 100% are often introduced to ensure that the Board does not build at peak enrolment, and instead at a sustainable enrolment level.	Yes, facility utilization remains above 90% and below 125% over a 10 year horizon.	(✓)
500-671 FBC/OTG	Based on previous experiences at the Board, and following Ministry Benchmarks defined by the Expert Panel (for school design), the optimal size for a facility's Functional Building Capacity (FBC) is between 500-671 pupil places for the Board. This ensures that a wide range of program, staff, special needs, and extra-curricular options are available to the students.	Yes, 671	(✓)
Portable Needs	Boards will often install portable classrooms at schools as a temporary accommodation solution in situations where peak student enrolment surpasses the built capacity. Portable classrooms are therefore used in situations to avoid overbuilding.	Yes, At peak 5 portable classrooms will be required on site, and will be reduced to two after a 10 year period.	(✓)
Accessibility	Review accessibility constraints on site and within the facility to ensure that equal access for all students and potential community partners is provided.	Yes, will meet current AODA guidelines and be fully accessible.	(✓)
Transportation Times	As per Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS) Operating Procedure HS-3-004 – Duration of Trip, wherever feasible bus trips shall not exceed 60 minutes for the elementary panel, and 75 minutes for the secondary panel. <i>Note: the 60 minute maximum is intended to address rural areas where distance is a factor. In-town routes are anticipated to be comparable to the average transportation time of 14 minutes for the regular track Program.</i>	Students enrolled in the Regular Track program of the Board is approximately 14 minutes for urban area, and can range between 30-55 minutes for rural areas. Staff anticipate similar average times.	(✓)

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED NORTH GEORGETOWN SCHOOL (NEW BUILD)	(✓)
Average Distance to School	Consists of an average distance between student households to school accommodations, whereby lower averages typically represent a more centralized location.	4.84 km	(✓)
Site Size (Approx. 5+ acres)	In order to provide for adequate play space, parking facilities, pick up/drop off, bus loops, and other necessary exterior accommodations, a school site of five (5) or more acres is adequate.	Preferred Size, 5.94 acres	(✓)
Adjacent Uses	Have consideration for adjacent uses, where some uses are more sympathetic to a school's daily operations than other (i.e. park spaces vs. commercial plaza strips).	Residential; Community Park	(✓)
Site Limitation(s)	Any additional factors that are unique to each school.	N/A	
Community Use	Where feasible, look to collaborative builds with Board approved community partners, as identified in Operating Procedure VI-78: Community Planning and Facility Partnerships	Yes, creation of a 5 (five) room 88 place 5 room child care facility, with community space included.	(✓)
Reduction in Pupil Places	With the phase out of "top up funding", does the proposal have the effect of eliminating excess pupil places?	113 pupil places removed	(✓)
Renewal Cost Avoidance	How much Capital Resources does the project have the effect of avoiding in renewal costs.	\$7.75M - \$8.90M between a 5 – 10 year range	(✓)
Reduction of Yearly Operational Costs	How much Operational Savings are available with the proposal?	Approximately \$176,000-243,000 per year, and approximately \$2,454,332 over a 10 year period.	(✓)



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review
Interim Staff Report North Georgetown School Project**

APPENDIX A

Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

Monday, January 18, 2016

- ☒ Principals impacted by MPARs take part in a teleconference about the MPAR report and potential implications for their school communities.

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

- ☒ Principals impacted by MPARs notified that the Board of Trustees have approved to move ahead with the Modified Pupil Accommodation Review (MPAR) Process.

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

- ☒ Website updated, with a dedicated page for each area under review: North Georgetown; Southeast Burlington; Southwest Burlington; South Oakville.
- ☒ Principals impacted by the MPARs receive key messages and FAQ to respond to parent and staff concerns.
- ☒ Letter template and FAQ for parents and staff **sent to each of the 10 Principals impacted by the MPAR for distribution to their parents and staff.**
- ☒ FAQ sheet and Principal's letter to staff shared with the Presidents of the Board's unionized employee groups.
- ☒ **School Staff Meetings** set up, as follows:
 - Monday, January 25 at 3:30 p.m. – St. Patrick
 - Wednesday, January 27 at 3:30 p.m. – St. James
 - Thursday, January 28 at 3:00 p.m. – Holy Cross
 - Monday, February 1 at 4:00 p.m. – St. Joseph
 - Tuesday, February 2 at 3:00 p.m. – St. John
 - Wednesday, February 3 at 4:00 p.m. - Ascension
 - Thursday, February 4 at 3:10 p.m. – St. Dominic
 - Thursday, February 4 at 3:30 p.m. – St. Paul
 - Friday, February 5 at 9:00 a.m. – St. Raphael
 - Wednesday, February 10 at 4:00 p.m. – St. Francis
- ☒ **Meetings with Catholic School Councils** set up as follows:
 - Wednesday, February 3, 2016 - Holy Cross
 - Thursday, February 4, 2016 – St. James
 - Monday, February 8, 2016 – St. Paul

Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

- Thursday, February 11, 2016 – St. Raphael
- Wednesday, February 17, 2016 – St. Patrick
- Thursday, February 18, 2016 – St. Joseph
- Monday, February 22, 2016 – St. Francis of Assis
- Tuesday, February 23, 2016 – St. Dominic
- Thursday, February 25, 2016 - Ascension
- Monday, February 29, 2016 – St. John
- ☑ **Community Consultation Meetings** set up, as follows:
 - **Wednesday, March 2, 2016** at 7:00 p.m. at Assumption CSS – [Southeast Burlington](#)
 - **Thursday, March 3, 2016** at 7:00 p.m. at Christ the King CSS – [North Georgetown](#)
 - **Monday, March 7, 2016** at 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas CSS – [South Oakville](#)
 - **Tuesday, March 8, 2016** at 7:00 pm. At Assumption CSS – [Southwest Burlington](#)

Friday, January 22, 2016

- ☑ **Information packages sent in hardcopy and via email to the following:** Clerks
Departments at the 3 municipalities and the Region of Halton; coterminous boards; Ministry of Education

Monday, January 25, 2016

- ☑ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Patrick

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

- ☑ **Community Updates** hand-delivered to the neighbouring residents adjacent to the schools under review.
- ☑ An **email sent to parishes impacted by the MPARs**, to share information and request a time to meet.
- ☑ Meetings with the Pastors at parishes that are adjacent to school sites were set up as follows:
 - Thursday, January 28, 2016 –Msgr. Modeski, St. Patrick Parish
 - Tuesday, February 9, 2016 –Fr. Anderson, St. Dominic and Fr. Lensson, St. James
 - Friday, February 12, 2016 – Fr. Sims, St. John the Baptist
 - Wednesday, February 17, 2016 – Fr. Wagner, St. Raphael

Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

- ☑ **Online discussion forums created** for each of the four review areas.
- ☑ **Email invitation sent to Principals, and asked to share with all staff** - to attend Consultation Meetings and to share concerns on online forums.
- ☑ **Follow-up letter sent to all parents** (from Principals) in review areas – **inviting them to attend Consultation Meetings** and to **share concerns on online forums**. This information provided as information to Principals.
 - **Email** to all Ascension, St. Patrick and St. Raphael parents through the parent notification system to invite them to Consultation Meeting to take place on March 2nd.
 - **Email** to all Holy Cross and St. Francis parents through the parent notification system to invite them to Consultation Meeting to take place on March 3rd.
 - **Email** to all St. Dominic, St. James and St. Joseph through the parent notification system to invite them to Consultation Meeting to take place on March 7th.
 - **Email** to all St. John and St. Paul parents through the parent notification system to invite them to Consultation Meeting to take place on March 8th.
- ☑ **School Staff Meeting** at St. James.

Thursday, January 28, 2016

- ☑ A letter sent from School SO to Catholic School Councils in 10 impacted schools to invite them to an information session.
- ☑ **News release** to our media contacts, which includes the date of the Community Consultation Meetings, as well as links to the Board's website for more information and to register to attend.
- ☑ The information about the MPAR Consultation Meetings **posted on the front page of our website** in the **sliding news**.
- ☑ A letter sent via email to the Mayors of Burlington, Halton Hills and Oakville.
- ☑ A letter sent via email to the local councillors in the communities impacted by the MPARs.
- ☑ A letter sent via email to the local MPPs in the communities impacted by the MPARs.
- ☑ A letter sent via email to the Regional Chair.
- ☑ **News Release sent out** about Community Consultation Meetings scheduled in March.
- ☑ A **schedule of tweets and posts set up** to communicate the information about the Community Consultation Meetings through our social media channels.
- ☑ **School Staff Meeting** at Holy Cross.
- ☑ Meeting with Msgr. Modeski, St. Patrick Parish.

Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

Monday, February 1, 2016

- ☒ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Joseph.
- ☒ **Presentation to CPIC.**

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

- ☒ **School Staff Meeting** at St. John.

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

- ☐ **School Staff Meeting** at Ascension.
- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at Holy Cross.

Thursday, February 4, 2016

- ☐ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Dominic.
- ☐ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Paul.
- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. James.

Friday, February 5, 2016

- ☐ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Raphael.

Monday, February 8, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Paul.

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

- ☐ Meeting with Fr. Anderson, St. Dominic Parish and Fr. Lensson, St. James Parish.

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

- ☐ Meeting with Jim Long, Episcopal Director, Diocese of Hamilton.
- ☐ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Francis of Assisi.

Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

Thursday, February 11, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Raphael.

Friday, February 12, 2016

- ☐ Meeting with Fr. Sims, St. John the Baptist Parish.

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Raphael.
- ☐ Meeting with Fr. Wagner, St. Raphael Parish.

Thursday, February 18, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Joseph.

Monday, February 22, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Francis of Assisi.

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Dominic.

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

- ☐ **Online survey posted.**
- ☐ **Reminder** message (one week in advance) sent to Ascension, St. Patrick and St. Raphael parents about Consultation Meeting, **as well as to offer an opportunity to those who do not plan to attend the Consultation Meeting to provide their feedback through an online survey.**
- ☐ **Reminder** also communicated through **Twitter and Facebook.**
- ☐ **A message sent to all schools for their school newsletters/websites.**

Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

- ☐ A follow-up **email to be sent to parishes** for consideration in sharing the information about consultation meeting with their parish community. Prepared **announcement/bulletin message** provided.

Thursday, February 25, 2016

- ☐ **Reminder** message (one week in advance) to Holy Cross and St. Francis parents about Consultation Meeting.
- ☐ **Reminder** also communicated through **Twitter and Facebook**.
- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at Ascension.

Monday, February 29, 2016

- ☐ **Reminder** message (one week in advance) to St. Dominic, St. James, and St. Joseph parents about Consultation Meeting.
- ☐ **Reminder** also communicated through **Twitter and Facebook**.
- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. John.

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

- ☐ **Reminder** message (one week in advance) to St. John and St. Paul parents about Consultation Meeting.
- ☐ **Reminder** also communicated through **Twitter and Facebook**.

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

- ☐ **Community Consultation Meeting** for **Southeast Burlington** – 7:00 p.m. at Assumption CSS.

Thursday, March 3, 2016

- ☐ **Follow-up email** to all Ascension, St. Patrick and St. Raphael parents to thank those who attended the Community Consultation, and to remind those who did not attend of the opportunity to provide their **feedback through an online survey**.
- ☐ This information also **communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.
- ☐ **Community Consultation Meeting** for **North Georgetown** – 7:00 p.m. at Christ the King CSS.

Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

Friday, March 4, 2016

- ☐ **Follow-up email** to all Holy Cross and St. Francis parents to thank those who attended the Community Consultation, and to offer an opportunity to those who did not to provide their **feedback through an online survey**.
- ☐ This information also **communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.

Monday, March 7, 2016

- ☐ **Community Consultation Meeting** for **South Oakville** – 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas CSS.

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

- ☐ **Follow-up email** to all St. Dominic, St. James and St. Joseph parents to thank those who attended the Community Consultation, and to remind those who did not attend of the opportunity to provide their **feedback through an online survey**.
- ☐ This information also **communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.
- ☐ **Community Consultation Meeting** for **Southwest Burlington** – 7:00 p.m. at Assumption CSS.

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

- ☐ **Follow-up email** to all St. John and St. Paul parents to thank those who attended the Community Consultation, and to remind those who did not attend of the opportunity to provide their **feedback through an online survey**.
- ☐ This information also **communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.
- ☐ **Reminder email** to all parents to **participate in the online survey** before it closes on Wednesday, March 11, 2016.
- ☐ Reminder **also communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.

Friday, March 11, 2016

- ☐ Reminder **also communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.

Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

Friday, March 18, 2016

- ☐ **Email to all elementary parents** to thank them for their participation in the process, and to **let to let them know that the report has been posted** on the Board's website. The email will also note that the report will be presented to Trustees at the April 5, 2016 Board Meeting, and **review the process and timelines for delegations.**
- ☐ This information **communicated through Twitter and Facebook.**

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

- ☐ **Special Board Meeting** – final report and recommendations presented to Board of Trustees

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

- ☐ **Regular Board Meeting** – delegations received.

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

- ☐ **Regular Board Meeting** – final decision by the Board of Trustees.

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

- ☐ **Email** from School Superintendent to **10 Principals in impacted school communities to notify them about the decision of the Board on the final recommendations.**
- ☐ **A letter sent home to all parents** from School Superintendent to let them know about the decision of the Board.
- ☐ This information **also communicated through Twitter and Facebook.**



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review
Interim Staff Report North Georgetown School Project**

APPENDIX B



My feed
 All posts
 Search



Unverified account

Please check your email to verify your account.

[Resend verification link](#)

General Discussion – North Georgetown PAR

Collapse all



28d in **General Discussion – North Georgetown PAR**
 1
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Proposed new school

I'm very excited about the possibility of getting a new Catholic elementary school in Georgetown North. My children currently attend Holy Cross and while I love the school and the small community, I feel we would definitely benefit from a new modern school facility. I think combining Holy Cross and St. Francis schools would be a great fit – both schools are small and value a close-knit school community and many families

Channels

General Discussion – North Georgetown PAR

Holy Cross Catholic Elementary School

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School

Online

<https://muut.com/north-georgetown-mpar#/general-discussion-north-c>

1/9

already live in close proximity (i.e. Denex area). For me, it makes sense to combine 2 smaller schools into a larger school – I feel my kids would benefit from having an opportunity in a larger school setting to make more friends before moving on to a very large high school. I also feel a new school would provide our kids with a state of the art facility that will provide many opportunities for learning and extracurricular activities not currently available at our smaller, older facilities – more sports teams, band programs, special interest clubs, access to technology, etc. I understand there may be some concerns about a new school (i.e. more bussing and the need for portables), however I think the benefits of a new school far outweigh any negatives. I look forward to attending the upcoming community meetings and meeting St. Francis families to discuss this exciting opportunity.



13d

Well said! I couldn't agree more.



14d in **General Discussion – North Georgetown PAR**
 1

New School – Great Idea with one minor change

At the January 19th meeting, the Board approved the Boundary Review – Option 3 Modified and initiated the North Georgetown PAR. I have reviewed the implications of “Option 3- Modified” and the proposed “North Georgetown PAR” and it appears that our neighbourhood is the sole location be forced to switch schools in both the 2016/17 and 2017/18 school years.

Batch U77 is comprised of Aberden Drive and Apple

<https://muut.com/north-georgetown-mpar#/general-discussion-north-c>

2/9

Parcel U77 is comprised of Alderlynn Drive and Apple Blossom.

I have submitted a request to Mark Rowe – Trustee to ask him to approach the Staff and have them reconsider the necessity of moving ~30 students in U77 to Holy Cross for the 2016/17 school year. Our current school – St Catherines – is not at capacity next year so it would appear this request would have nominal impact on the school vs. the significant and unnecessary impact moving twice will have on our children. Then if the construction of the new Georgetown West CES is approved and completed as planned, the students would only need to endure one school change directly from St Catherines to Georgetown West CES for 2017/18.



While physically moving schools is going to be a change for the kids, if the new school is built there are going to be many children who will feel the impact of that change and does one or two moves really make that much of a difference? It may actually be easier for the children in your area to move to Holy Cross first. That way they can establish some friendships before the two schools are combined and perhaps won't be so nervous to make the move as they will be in the same situation as everyone else will be, however they will have a support system in the new friends they have made at Holy Cross. Just another point of view to consider...

Reply...



5w in General Discussion – North Georgetown PAR ❤️ 1

With thanks...

Both Holy Cross and St Francis have a rich history in Georgetown. Many have a deep attachment to both schools. We are blessed to have wonderful people teaching, supporting and attending. While small schools offer that close knit family, I believe that a blend of Holy Cross and St Francis will offer even greater opportunities for learning and growing as a community. There are so many advantages to be had in a building that will still house the people who made St Francis and Holy Cross so special but now there will be state of the art classrooms allowing for more diverse, creative and engaged learning, advanced technological capabilities to help students, teachers and staff equip themselves to navigate in an increasingly digital world, a building that supports green initiatives and an opportunity to offer more extra-curriculars in a beautiful light filled space that will make memories for our children.

This is a progressive idea. When we combine a new structure with a beautiful layout, two great schools and then contrast that to the money necessary to keep both schools in working order (Holy Cross in particular, but St Francis will face similar problems in the not too distant future), upgrades needed for accessibility concerns, potential decrease in enrollment (leading to empty classrooms and fewer teacher resources) we can see that blending our two schools has distinct advantages.

While this particular topic does not affect my children as both will have moved on to high school (maybe it should be noted that CtK is the largest high school in HCDSB), I still hope for the best for the younger children attending now. This is not a perfect solution however, I truly believe it to be the best solution to a complicated problem. It offers all our students the greatest possible opportunities for learning and the development of the 'whole' child. It takes a village to

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development of the whole community a village to raise a child and our combined village will only bring greater ideas, resources and people together, all working as a community to teach our children.

Reply...



5w in General Discussion – North Georgetown PAR  2

New “Super School”

Wow. The proposed new school, combining both St Francis and Holy Cross is an absolute dream. Joining two family communities into one large family would be very welcome. Both schools have reputations for being small and “like family”. What a great initiative to make our families bigger and give our children a chance at more and new friends. Despite bus route being added or changed it is in the best interest of all the children to end up, a short drive away, at a new “super school” that embraces 21st century technology. The benefits to this new school out number the reasons to keep two older, smaller schools from staying open. St Francis kids could benefit from a newer, LARGER playground and while Holy Cross kids will certainly miss the best snow hill ever they will certainly benefit from new bricks and mortar! With the recent builds in Milton we have noticed just how beautiful new schools can be and it's left us with a desire for a newer, cleaner, nicer learning facility. It's also made us realize that BOTH Holy Cross and St Francis are missing out on opportunities new schools have to offer. We want the absolute best for our children and a new school would be welcomed! I sincerely hope the positive aspects of this proposed project shine brighter than the possible

<https://muut.com/north-georgetown-mpar#/general-discussion-north-c>

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General Discussion – North Georgetown PAR | Halton Catholic MPAR

negative ones. Kudos to the Board for putting forth the application and putting us all in this exciting opportunity.

Reply...



7w in General Discussion – North Georgetown PAR  2

New school

I am happy to hear about a new school being proposed for the students in the north end. My children attend Holy Cross and, although it is a great school community, the building itself had many issues. I do have 2 concerns however: the first is the route my children will take to school. We live in the subdivision to the north of the proposed location (north of the railway tracks) and the only route to school for the children in this neighbourhood is through the tunnel under the tracks. This tunnel is not serviced in the winter and becomes covered with snow and ice, creating a hazardous condition. My other issue is the number of portables suggested. If the goal is to provide ALL students with a better learning environment I fail to see how the students in the portables will benefit. Thanks!



HCDSB-PAR Admin 6w

Thanks for sharing your thoughts and concerns. In this situation, bus transportation would be provided under an exception to the policy, due to safety. For more info, you can view our home-to-school student transportation policy: www.hcdsb.org/.../udent%20Transportation.pdf.

The recommendation for the North Georgetown

<https://muut.com/north-georgetown-mpar#/general-discussion-north-c>

6/9

community will provide all of our students with the benefits of learning in an environment that uses a 21st Century Learning model. All students at the proposed new school will have access to the same quality programs and resources!

6w

Your feedback is appreciated and will be shared with Trustees. You are also more than welcome to [attend the Community Consultation Meeting](#) in Georgetown on March 3rd.

Reply...



HCDSB-PAR Admin 7w in General Discussion – North Georgetown PAR

Rules of Conduct for Online Forums

From time to time, we may establish online forums to encourage parents, staff and members of our community to share their comments and ask questions on a particular matter. For more information, please visit our [Social Media Guidelines](#).

Appropriate Language: Please avoid personal attacks, slurs, and profanity in your activities on the forum.

Confidentiality: Please do not post anything on the forum that you do not want the world to see. You should not post personally identifiable information (such as your child's name, address, telephone number, etc.), or other confidential information.

Basic Rules:

- Please treat all other participants in the forum with

respect. Do not use the forum to threaten, harass, demean or insult other users. Remember that other participants are members of your community.

- Do not use the forum to spam others. Spam includes sending identical and irrelevant or unsolicited submissions to many different users, and includes misrepresenting the source of anything you post.

Reply...



HCDSB-PAR Admin 7w in General Discussion – North Georgetown PAR

North Georgetown Community Pupil Accommodation Review

On January 19, 2016, the Board approved the initiation of the North Georgetown Community Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR), as it relates to the following schools:

Holy Cross Catholic Elementary School (bit.ly/HolyCrossGeorgetown)

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School (bit.ly/StFrancisGeorgetown)

For more information about the PAR process, please visit our website: (bit.ly/NorthGeorgetown-PAR)

Parents and members of the community can share their opinions and provide their comments below, and are also welcome to attend the **Community Consultation Meeting**, which will take place on: Thursday, March 3, 2016 at Christ the King Catholic Secondary School, at 7:00 p.m.

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General Discussion – North Georgetown PAR | Halton Catholic MPAR

[Register for the Consultation Meeting here:] (
survey.hcdsb.org/2016MPAR.aspx)

Reply...





**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review
Interim Staff Report North Georgetown School Project**

APPENDIX C



2015-16 Pupil Accommodation Reviews

Online Community Feedback

Prepared by:
Research & Development Services
3/18/2016

For More Information, please contact:
Candace Rempel, MA, *Research Officer*

2015-16 Pupil Accommodation Reviews

Summary of Online Community Feedback

Prior to and following the individual Community Consultation Meetings held March 2, 3, 7, and 8 at HCDSB secondary schools, parents, students, staff, community and parish members were provided with an opportunity to submit their feedback about the proposed Pupil Accommodation Reviews via HCDSB's online survey system. The online feedback collection form remained open for parent responses from Wednesday February 17, 2016 until Friday March 11, 2016. This report provides a summary of the online responses received.

Online Pupil Accommodation Review Survey Response Breakdown

- 320 feedback forms were received
 - 123 forms were completed for the Burlington Southeast of QEW Review
 - 51 forms were completed for the Georgetown Review
 - 58 forms were completed for the Oakville South Review
 - 88 forms were completed for the Burlington Southwest of the QEW Review

The following table displays the number of feedback forms that were completed for each of the schools affected in the Pupil Accommodation Review. The feedback forms where respondents did not identify the school are reported as Blank.

Burlington Southeast	#	Georgetown	#
Ascension	28	Holy Cross	24
St. Patrick	34	St. Francis of Assissi	26
St. Raphael	40	Blank	1
Blank	21		
TOTAL	123	TOTAL	51
Oakville South	#	Burlington Southwest	#
St. Dominic	23	St. John	24
St. James	6	St. Paul	50
St. Joseph (Oakville)	27	Blank	14
Blank	2		
TOTAL	58	TOTAL	88

Support for the Pupil Accommodation Review

In some cases (not all), it was difficult to discern whether the respondent supported the Pupil Accommodation Review plan prepared by the Board. While some respondents directly communicated that they "Loved it" or "Liked nothing about it", Research and Development Services acknowledged that the majority of respondents were responding to the three questions posed – identifying what they liked, challenges that they foresaw, and suggestions for improvement.

In order to paint a picture of the nature of the comments received, Research and Development Services coded and reported the percentage of respondents who provided a constructive comment

for each of the three questions. These percentages are broken down by school, to capture patterns that exist among school communities. Percentages are reported for groups of 15 or more.

Burlington Southeast of the QEW

School (forms received)	Question 1 What do you like best...?	Question 2 What are the challenges you see...?	Question 3 Do you have any suggestions to improve the plan?
Ascension (28)	24 (85.7%)	25 (89.3%)	17 (60.7%)
St. Patrick (34)	14 (41.2%)	30 (88.2%)	27 (79.4%)
St. Raphael (40)	20 (50%)	37 (92.5%)	31 (77.5%)
Blank (21)	7 (33.3%)	19 (90.5%)	17 (81%)

Georgetown

School (forms received)	Question 1 What do you like best...?	Question 2 What are the challenges you see...?	Question 3 Do you have any suggestions to improve the plan?
Holy Cross (24)	24 (91.7%)	19 (79.2%)	15 (62.5%)
St. Francis (26)	17 (65.4%)	21 (80.8%)	12 (46.2%)
Blank (1)		1	1

Oakville South

School (forms received)	Question 1 What do you like best...?	Question 2 What are the challenges you see...?	Question 3 Do you have any suggestions to improve the plan?
St. Dominic (23)	16 (69.6%)	16 (69.6%)	13 (56.5%)
St. James (6)	3	5	4
St. Joseph (27)	21 (77.8%)	24 (88.9%)	15 (55.5%)
Blank (2)	1	2	1

Burlington Southwest of the QEW

School (forms received)	Question 1 What do you like best...?	Question 2 What are the challenges you see...?	Question 3 Do you have any suggestions to improve the plan?
St. John (24)	12 (50%)	23 (95.8%)	18 (75%)
St. Paul (50)	11 (22%)	43 (86%)	41 (82%)
Blank (14)	2	10	8

Low Response

Although the feedback received was from communities with some lower enrollment schools, the amount of feedback that was received was lower than anticipated. Given that the Board of Trustees would be making decisions about the most appropriate pupil accommodation arrangements for the HCDSB (which may lead to school consolidations and/or closures) after they had the opportunity to read and reflect on the comments provided by the community, the Research

Department predicted a higher response for the online survey. The online feedback form was open to all members of each community. The form could be accessed via the Board's public website, where all of the information for the PARs was located. The following possible explanations for this phenomenon are outlined below.

Multiple Opportunities to Provide Feedback

Parents, students, staff, community and parish members were provided with various outlets to provide feedback on the proposed plan affecting their community. Interested stakeholders could submit input on the plan: 1. at the Community Consultation; 2. in the online discussion forum; 3. and through the Online Survey System. Further, 4. letters and emails received by the Board were also reviewed and documented in the reports. It is possible that the lower than expected response to the online feedback form is a result of community members choosing an alternate way to submit their input on the proposed plan.

Sampling and Non-response

The online feedback form, or survey, allowed for the equal opportunity for all interested parties, regardless of opinion to participate in and provide their concerns – meaning it was fair and open to all. This means that the vast majority of individuals who had an opportunity to weigh in on the survey did not participate in the survey when they had the opportunity to do so. The non-response rate does demonstrate a bias, in that, parties who were upset or disagreed with the proposal tended to respond, and this reflects the reality that the majority of people did not disagree or have an issue with the proposal. The survey, by its very nature, attracted the voice of the individuals who are in disagreement with the proposal. If the small sample that responded, demonstrated a more evenly distributed opinion, then a larger sample would be required. The fact that in some schools/communities it was almost entirely skewed towards a negative opinion means that the survey was only of interest to that particular party. A larger sample would not provide a more "balanced view" because the nature of the survey itself.

According to Groves (2006, p. 664), "...positive or negative affect toward the sponsor of the survey may be related to the survey variables measured. *In at least some surveys, these influences on survey participation are correlated with the variables of interest in the survey*" (emphasis added).¹ The practitioner must decide whether this is likely to be the case and whether, therefore, differential effort should be assigned to the groups with low base propensities."

Thus, the those who responded had a high affective motivation for responding. Those that did not respond are likely (and we cannot say for certain in any circumstance) did not have an interest in the survey or the questions. You could extrapolate from this that the low and negative response rate reflected the population interest, and the majority of people were not interested the survey or the issue. Therefore, it may be the case that the non-respondents are at the least neutral, unaffected or detached from the issue (i.e., not against it).

¹ Groves, R. M. (2006). Nonresponse rates and nonresponsive bias in household surveys. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 70(5), 646-675.

Georgetown – Pupil Accommodation Review (affecting Holy Cross and St. Francis of Assisi Schools)

Themes Present in Online Community Feedback Form – by School

Following the Community Consultation Meeting held Thursday March 3, 2016 at Christ the King Secondary School, current and future parents, students, staff members, and parish members impacted by the consolidation proposals were provided with an opportunity to submit their feedback about the proposed boundary reviews via HCDSB's online survey system. The online feedback collection form remained open for community feedback from Wednesday February 17, 2016 until Friday March 11, 2016. This report provides a summary of the online responses received for the Georgetown Pupil Accommodation Review and an analysis of themes observed in the responses received for the Holy Cross and St. Francis of Assisi school communities.

Holy Cross School

Online Feedback Form Response

- A total of 51 Feedback Forms were received for the Georgetown Pupil Accommodation Review
- 24 of the Georgetown feedback forms (47.1%) were received from Holy Cross School
 - 20 of the 24 (83.3%) forms received were current Holy Cross parents/guardians
 - 3 of 24 respondents (12.5%) identified themselves as future Holy Cross parents/guardians
 - The other feedback form (1) received was from a staff member at Holy Cross

Question 1: What do you like best about the proposed plan?

The majority of respondents (22 or 91.7%) identified something they liked best about the proposed plan. Overwhelmingly, the respondents of this school were happy with the plan because they wanted a new school that was updated, with modern amenities that will support 21st Century learning. There were a few respondents who stated they did not like anything about the new plan.

Example:

“Updated 21 century learning facility, increased technology in the school and classroom, larger yard for students to play in, accessibility for all, increase in specialized programs, increase in extra curricular activities.”

Question 2: What are the challenges you see with this plan?

Despite the positive comments and agreement above, most respondents (19 or 79.2%) thought there would be challenges posed by the plan. Their comments were clustered into the three themes below:

1. Transportation: Many of the responses indicated that they are concerned with issues around the distance of the new school or worries around bussing.
2. Transitions: A large portion of the comments involved concerns with the integration of the staff and the students such as anxiety, and wanting the board to minimize disruptions.
3. Quality of Education: Respondents in this theme felt that a larger school would impact student-teacher ratios, and that class sizes would be too big. There was also concern around the use of portables.

Example:

“I think integrating the kids will be a short term challenge, choosing which teachers/principal will be transferred to the new school will also be difficult but a fabulous opportunity to bring the best teachers/principal to teach our kids - hopefully there is some latitude here with the union as we should have teachers who want to be teaching our kids present at school.”

Question 3: Do you have any suggestions to improve the proposed plan?

Approximately half of the respondents felt that they were happy with the existing plan and did not have any suggestions. The following suggestions were provided individually (not themes):

1. Disclose financial statements in order to reflect deficits
2. Communication
3. Ensure there are programs and activities in place to ease transitions for students
4. Re-examine boundaries for schools
5. Sell the St. Francis site to help offset any funding shortfalls
6. Build a new school in place of the old one
7. Make Holy Cross into a middle school (e.g., grades 7/8)
8. Less use of portables
9. Just went through a boundary review, experiencing too much transition for some streets
10. Students to stay at St. Catherine’s until construction is complete

Example:

“I do hope that a much larger parking area or drop off zone is afforded in the new plans. The merging of two schools may cause some issues in terms of a much larger student population than the students are used to. I believe that programs or activities should be created for all the pupils in the same grade to get acquainted. Maybe these activities can be created / run by the intermediates (with supervision of course) in an effort to integrate them with one another and foster some pride of their new school.”

St. Francis of Assisi School

Online Feedback Form Response

- A total of 51 Feedback Forms were received for the Georgetown Pupil Accommodation Review
- 26 of the Georgetown feedback forms (51%) were received from St. Francis of Assisi School
 - 23 of the 26 (88.5%) forms received were current St. Francis parents/guardians
 - 2 of 26 respondents (7.7%) identified themselves as future St. Francis parents/guardians
 - The other feedback form (1) received was from a family with a parent and a student of St. Francis responding

Question 1: What do you like best about the proposed plan?

The majority of respondents (17 or 65.4%) liked the plan and were happy about getting a new school, however, there was a very small minority of respondents who expressed dissatisfaction with the plan and stated they did not like anything about it.

Example:

"I really like the idea of having a new joint school. It would provide the benefits of a new school facility, new technologies available and the possibility of more social development for my children as they would have a larger pool of peers and possibly different classmates throughout the years."

Question 2: What are the challenges you see with this plan?

As with the Holy Cross responses, despite liking elements of the proposed plan, most respondents (21 or 80.8%) also identified challenges with the proposed plan. These comments have been sorted into themes as follows:

1. Location and School Size: Several comments were focused on unhappiness with the possibility of using too many portables. A few respondents felt that the new location would not provide enough green space, and that a big school would be stressful for the students.
2. Transportation: Second largest theme for this school involved concerns with transportation, the new location being too far for them, issues with drop-off areas, bussing problems, and feeling a lack of security about possible strangers on the property.
3. Other: There were a few other comments around transitional stress, the availability of before and after care. Several people simply stated they just did not like the plan.

Example:

"One of the main points for me is the fact that the plan includes a number of permanent portables. If we are building a new school to accommodate all kids, then why is there the need to have so many portables? - due to the proposed location of the new school, it is completely on the other side of town from where

we live. I understand that we would be on a bus route, but for parents that work out of town (most people in Georgetown), it poses a challenge to transport the kids to a school that will be so much further away than the current school.”

Question 3: Do you have any suggestions to improve the proposed plan?

Approximately half of the St. Francis respondents (12 or 46.2%) provided suggestions to improve the proposed plan. These suggestions have been clustered and reported below:

1. Upgrade the Current School: Several comments described the suggestion that HCDSB could use any available funding to upgrade or fix the designated schools instead of adopting the current plan.
2. Like the plan: Several individuals did not have any suggestions to provide, and hoped the plan would move ahead
3. Abandon the plan: conversely several others suggested abandoning the plan.
4. Other Suggestions: Add a daycare, and eliminate portables.

Example:

“least amount of portables as possible”

Georgetown – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

RESPONSE ID	WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT THE PROPOSED PLAN?	WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES YOU SEE WITH THIS PLAN?	DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE THE PROPOSED PLAN?
265237	Greater opportunity and updates for the schools.	Due to the new location accommodating transportation and before and after school arrangements that shave already been made and ensuring they are still compatible with what the new school times will be.	
261221	Knowing that my children will be in a safer school with more space for play. It shouldn't be a normal thing for my kids to see rats/mice while learning on a regular basis.	I see the funding challenges	I think a dollar amount of the deficit should be disclosed in the meeting if the board is saying they don't have enough money to motion this forward.
276550	Great new state-of-art facility that will enrich our children's education	Combining two schools can create some transitional issues - merging two school communities, some staff positions will no longer be needed	No, I think the plan is solid
261207	This will be my daughters XXX move due to HCDSB in XXX years (XXX), if there is any benefit from this proposal is that it will be a NEW school as Holy Cross feels and looks unhealthy.	As mentioned above, this would be XXX forced move and XXX school in XXX years for an XXX year who is making and building relationships and that age it is not easy going to new schools.	Communication is key.
265228	Holy Cross School is in desperate need of repairs. A new school will promise an improved learning environment without the fear of burst pipes and bathrooms that are constantly closed for repair.	Further distance may be an issue but my children are driven everyday so I am confident that these challenges can be faced positively.	I do hope that a much larger parking area or drop off zone is afforded in the new plans. The merging of two schools may cause some issues in terms of a much larger student population than the students are used to. I believe that programs or activities should be created for all the pupils in the same grade to get acquainted. Maybe these activities can be created / run by the intermediates (with supervision of course) in an effort to integrate them with one another and foster some pride of their new school.

Georgetown – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

261308	<p>The possibility of a new school with all the advancements made in the building of a new school (2016 vrs 1959). The tech capabilities, the green alternatives, the structural resources (food for thought room, nice gym, stage, library, 20th century classrooms with options to use space to help learning...), nice big play area, better accommodation for parking, a bigger family of teachers and support staff to offer more opportunities/experiences, teams, clubs... for our children. A school that does not present rodent problems, broken sewage pipes, heating/cooling issues where one room gets the heat and the room a few doors down have students wearing their coat to stay warm, change rooms that are missing doors, dank and smelly (that no matter how cleaned they are, the smell is overwhelming), old, poorly lit washrooms with the washing hand station that sprays water everywhere but on hands, teacher work rooms that are crammed with no space to be creative and productive, a single gym that provides limited access to a school of +450 (for classroom exercise an sports teams) and a small space used as a 'nutrition room' by the very dedicated volunteers running the program (also doubles as the health room)</p>	<p>As in any change, there will be some adjustment as our schools blend. I think some challenges will be incorporating our current equipment in our buildings into the new building. I know many of Holy Cross' stand alone computers are not functioning properly (or not functioning at all) and this will be problematic in making the most use of all the technological advancements of the new building. Many desks have certainly seen better days. Some I think are still from the 1960's. I know there is no 'new school budget' for a consolidation however, I think it is necessary to have some money made available for new school expenditures for equipment that is outdated, not working or just not there.</p>	<p>I think Halton Catholic (board) is doing a nice job being inclusive</p>
261213	A new school building for the students	Bussing, will the boundaries be the same	
261354	<p>Updated 21 century learning facility, increased technology in the school and classroom, larger yard for students to play in, accessibility for all, increase in specialized programs, increase in extra curricular activities.</p>		<p>Change boundary lines when the new school is built so some families are not affected twice.</p>
261357	<p>I like that a new school will be built for both Holy Cross and St. Francis kids and that they will be able to take advantage of newer technology, better facilities and more play areas. ???I have 2 children who are separated from each other, one in HC and one in SF. Both locations are old, have limited play areas especially St. Francis and having the kids pooled together will also facilitate new friendships and sense of community.</p>	<p>I think integrating the kids will be a short term challenge, choosing which teachers/principal will be transferred to the new school will also be difficult but a fabulous opportunity to bring the best teachers/principal to teach our kids - hopefully there is some latitude here with the union as we should have teachers who want to be teaching our kids present at school.</p>	<p>I have heard that St. Francis will remain open as a resource center, why are you not selling that land along with Holy Cross to help fund the new school and make a stronger financial case for approval. We need to do what we can for this community to finally get a new school.</p>

Georgetown – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

277010	I like that the kids will have a state of the art facility that will provide many education and extracurricular opportunities and will eliminate the current issues at Holy Cross with the deteriorating condition of the building. I think a bigger school allows for more social opportunities, less split classes (a big issue at Holy Cross), more clubs and extracurricular activities, and an easier transition to a very large high school.	I don't see many challenges and I think any cons are far outweighed by the pros.	With the inclusion of a child care facility on the site and portables, I am wondering if the yard will be large enough to accommodate all the students at break times. I'd suggest looking at options to segregate the children by grade to ensure the older kids are not interacting with the younger students.
261095	A new school	We moved so our kids could walk. We do not want to bus. Larger schools can have more problems; students have to get to know new students. Will separation occur?	Plan for social assimilation. Brand as one.
261289	I am not happy about it in the least.	Transportation issues. Socialization issues. Anxiety for kids. Anxiety for parents.	Why wasn't a new school built on the location of the old Holy Cross Church? Otherwise keep the school where it is. No one is complaining.
261017	The New school building	None	
261218	Updated with technology. Suitable playground area. Accessible for all students including students in wheelchairs	Concerned that joining two different schools together would lead to larger class sizes	
261327	Having a brand new school building.	The school becoming over crowded as new homes are built in Georgetown. Transportation.	
261226	Hopefully it elevates the environment that HC students currently endure	The length of time it will take to approve and construct a new dwelling. What will happen with the current dwellings?	Don't drag your feet! St Francis and Holy Cross stand to benefit from this move. I fear my children will have graduated from HC by the time you guys get this organized (they are currently in grade XXX). I think the plan, as it stands, is well thought out and much needed.
261220	This is a great idea. Holy Cross is in desperate need of repair and the children would benefit from a new school.		
276422	Updates our facility which is 50 years old and has a host of problems, it is barely adequate for student use.	None, we see this as entirely positive.	No, we are very happy with the plan.

Georgetown – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

265278	nothing--I like my daughter attending Holy Cross as she is presently doing. I do not even know where St. Francis of Assisi is and I do not know where you plan to have my daughter attend (going into grade X extended French program)	travel if she has to go to St Francis --she needs to be picked up at end of our driveway as she is a Special Needs student (XXX). I do not want her getting bus earlier than she presently is doing eg. 805am	why not make Holy Cross school a Middle School for both like public schools do eg. grade 6-8 or 5-8. And the other school JK-5 depending on student numbers. My son goes to XXX Middle Public school after leaving Holy Cross and loves the transition--good prep for high school as he has different teachers and rotates to different classes with a bell system.
265346	A new facility where new technology and upgrades would be established	An increased volume of students within a school can always create issues. The amount of children per class when the resources that they would have available to them. On top of this portables are not an option. Schools are to be a "family unit". Placing classes in portables is unsafe and unfair, it removes and isolate children from the "family unit". Comment 2: Too many children per class with less teachers	In order to maintain a sustainable community the new facility should be developed with the possibility of additional development. Thus removing any portable needed as they are a danger and a eye sore.
266042	Hopefully better facilities for the students	80% of the population is being bused to new school that is surrounded by railway tracks - endless traffic issues to come.	The recent boundary review moved students around to various schools and now this change will move students again. It appears that only one neighbourhood is going to be forced to move to new schools for two years in a row. Please look at U77 - Arborglen Drive and Apple Blossom and consider leaving the students at St Catherines for 2016-2017 school year. St Catherines is not at capacity next year and this will avoid having ~32 students change schools in successive years i.e. St Catherines to Holy Cross to "Georgetown West". This seems like a simple way to minimize the impact on young children.
261335	Holy cross is an old school so a new facility would be great for the students	The students currently at St. Catherines will have to go to Holy cross for a year and then move to the new school. The students should be able to stay at St. Catherines until the new school is built so that there is less disruption.	Let the students stay at St. Catherines school until the new school is built so that there is less disruption.
260919	New building in a quieter part of town	May have more kids needing busing	No. I think it's a great idea. School board already owns the land. Georgetown north needs and deserves the new school
276783	We are long overdue for a new, equitable building for both students and staff alike.	Staff making the adjustment of belonging to a much bigger school community.	No, I think the proposed plan looks perfect!

Georgetown – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

261255	I think that a new facility for students is a great idea. My children attend St. Francis and I have heard other parents with children at Holy Cross raise some concerns about the building physical state.	I think before and after school child care may be a concern for some parents. I would strongly encourage the school board to take this into consideration when making their decision.	
261047	I like that the children will be in a new school, with new technologies and facilities. I like that for my children specifically it means no bus and they can walk to school.	I don't see why the school is being built to accommodate what seems to be a very small number and then forecasting to have portables for 10 years. Then mention that after 10 years there will still be 2 portables. Would it really be a huge cost increase to make the school large enough to eliminate even half the portables so that at low peak there will be NO students in portables. By removing the additional portables there will then be more green space for the children to play. St Francis currently has more pavement than it does grass and i think it would benefit the children to have more green space to play.	least amount of portables as possible
260978	New facility, larger student population	Long bus rides, distance to new school, school hours - St. Francis is late start, Holy Cross is early, before /after school care, loss of staff	
261400	Cost efficient	Too large of a school can be intimidating for young students as well as less safe. With more students and parents, staff are less likely to notice strangers.	
277345	It benefits Holy Cross students whose school needs a lot of repairs.	Spending a lot of money unnecessarily; especially as St. Francis just had an addition put on and parents and students are happy with the facility, extra-curriculars etc.	Use a fraction of the money and improve Holy Cross...why is the solution to too many empty classrooms, to build a new school? Especially one that needs portables in its first years.
266193	Newer building	Busier drop off & pick ups, school to big for special needs kids to handle, no secure areas for special needs kids to play in.	Yes, improve the 2 current schools and don't close them down!!!
261261	My child currently has cross border approval to attend St. Francis, amalgamating the 2 schools would be advantageous to us.	None	None at this time

Georgetown – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

260912	New School with better facilities, closer to our home	Building one school to merge two with less classrooms than they currently have and more portables. There are over 800 students currently between the two schools but you are only building to hold 600+ which makes no sense as Georgetown is only growing more and more. Also, the small community feel will be gone. One of the reasons we made the move to this school zone is that we went in to St. Francis and loved the smaller community. We came from a school with 900+ students and the experience was not positive, there was absolutely no community feel at all. Despite the newer facilities we would consider private school to the larger school. Also, after some discussion with parents who are east of St. Francis the extra commute for before and after school care would be extremely difficult.	When we did our research re.the schools there was talk of only Holy Cross receiving the new school, not sure why the two schools have to be amalgamated if the proposed land is already owned by the school board.
261326	I do not like the idea of merging Holt Cross and St. Francis. There seem to be enough challenges for students from what I see.	The children that go to Holy Cross or St. Francis right now are used to a smaller school. For me, I would like ti if my kids remain at St. Francis even for location. The new school location is further away and my kids take the bus in the morning and I pick them up after work. As it is I race against the clock to get to the school on time so having me go farther will increase the chance of me being late.	Holy Cross and St. Francis should be kept as separate schools and this way they will accommodate more of the students. Holy Cross offers the extended French program and my children do not have an interest in taking this.
261158	A new school with a large playground	People complaining about buses. But no matter what you do, someone will not like it.	Build it in a timely manner...
261234		busing/travel issues for each school drop off/babysitting times will be effected. both schools start at different times now and can impact the schedules set up	
261143	I like nothing about it.	over crowding classrooms - large volume of students -over crowding road area at purposed site -unnecessary change for students when both schools are perfectly fine -"mega school" gives anxiety for children with special needs Uproots a routine that does n	Don't do it.
261147	We fully endorse the proposition to build a new holy cross school on berton and transfer the kids from st Francis to the new school.	Buy-in from the community.	I fully endorse the plan.

Georgetown – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

261146	Agree to go ahead with the new school proposal - Holy Cross is an older school that needs to be demolished and St. Francis' location is in a very busy part of town which causes safely concerns for student pedestrians.	Challenges: -loss of jobs by merging 2 schools into 1 -larger classes -potential loss of small school feel	
287970	I really like the idea of having a new joint school. It would provide the benefits of a new school facility, new technologies available and the possibility of more social development for my children as they would have a larger pool of peers and possibly different classmates throughout the years.	Building a cohesive community. Presents a nice opportunity for us though.	Have a completely new school name and principal. current Principals are great however it might create resentment or the perception of favouritism if one over the other is chosen as the Principal of the new school. The new school community needs to start fresh with a clean slate.
260995		Land size does not appear suitable for the number of children and families which would need to be accommodated from both schools	
260946	Accessibility for residents of North West Georgetown and having a state of the art facility.	Children's adjustment of being in a new school.	Go ahead with the proposed new school.
261079			
261010			
260989	Larger school community! More classes!	Keeping radios low!	Adding a daycare within the school!
261522		One of the main points for me is the fact that the plan includes a number of permanent portables. if we are building a new school to accommodate all kids, then why is there the need to have so many portables? - due to the proposed location of the new school, it is completely on the other side of town from where we live. I understand that we would be on a bus route, but for parents that work out of town (most people in Georgetown), it poses a challenge to transport the kids to a school that will be so much further away that the current school.	In order to improve on the suggestions, I would propose to eliminate the portables and also take another look at the location of the students and the boundaries. A lot of the comments pertain to Holy Cross being in bad shape, could a school not be built to accommodate those students and leave St. Francis as is? The proposed location is much closer in proximity to Holy Cross than it is to St. Francis.
261492	New facility	Bigger class sizes, more students therefore less staff/student recognition, more risk of bullying	

Georgetown – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

266060	<p>The building looks amazing BUT:</p>	<p>I foresee that in the current(and future) economical situation with many of the baby boomers downsizing, lots of Torontonians(and not only them) with children will find attractive to move in this area. Therefore, there is no need for a new school building so far away from the community they will establish in. Also, because so many students will need transportation to go to the new school,instead of walking to school, we are encouraging obesity at young age, as well as hurting the environment.</p>	<p>Renovate and extend Holy Cross school(eg. Keele Street Public School from Toronto).</p>
277343	<p>There is nothing that I can get behind and support with regards to the proposed plan. The idea of taking local schools out of our community in favor of an edge of town location is not desirable.</p> <p>Comment 2: I do not like anything because it's not in the community and if I had to take a bus it would be a long time. I think that you guys should not close the school's because everyone is probably happy where they are right now.</p>	<p>The children's education will suffer by closing St Francis and making them "all" ride buses. My child would have to face at least a 30 minute bus ride twice a day. This will take away from valuable study time and extra curricular activities.It is a burden to children that should be avoided at all costs by keeping our schools local.</p> <p>Comment 2: The buses will effect children's studying time and their activities out of school. If you shut down St.Francis and Holy Cross and build this new school it will effect students. Their close friends may be in a different class then them.</p>	<p>Keep St Francis school. It has just received a beautiful renovation and accommodates the local community nicely. Sort the issue of Holy Cross out as a separate issue</p> <p>Comment 2: All I want to say is please do not build this school because I want to stay where I am right now. This will effect so much people in the community. My suggestion is to not build the school!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!</p>
264000	<p>The proposed plan will provide both schools with a modern, fully equipped and functioning facility. Also, as a staff member of Holy Cross School, I look forward to a new school. Holy Cross is almost 60 years old and showing it. We've had mice running around, ceiling tiles falling off and electric outlets in many rooms that do not work. We've also had flooding of bathrooms upstairs and downstairs which has become a safety issue. We have had pipes burst in classrooms and destroy teacher and student resources. This is my XXX year here and it's not getting any better. Another reason is that my child and I would be in the same school. I could drop her off in the morning myself. We would be able to begin and finish at the same times.</p>	<p>I don't see any challenges that would affect Holy Cross. I think St. Francis will have a harder time wanting to change.</p>	<p>I think the proposed plan makes sense for both schools.</p>
277145	<p>Honestly nothing</p>	<p>As a person who moved into the area just to send my kids to st. Francis I'm pretty upset at the whole situation. First I don't</p>	<p>Use the money to fix up holy cross parents from both schools don't need to suffer from one being a problem. It's absolutely</p>

Georgetown – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

	Comment 2: Newer School	<p>want my young child going to a school of that size or having to be bused to school. 2nd I'm also worried about what this will do to the value of my house there is absolutely no mention of what will become of the old school. 3rd the whole shady manner in how this has been handled has me questioning if I even want my kids in catholic school now. The parents and the community were kept in the dark about this till the late stages. I know people that work in the schools so I know this has been basically a slam dunk before you informed any parents or the community and this is input is all for show and that this is happening no matter what. 4th why would you waste our tax money expanding st. Francis then try to ditch it within the 1st year as a hard working tax payer this absolutely enrages me.</p> <p>Comment 2: As a soon to be parent of a child in school, who bought my home based on the location of st francis I am very frustrated. I don't want to be sending my XXX year old on a bus across town. I think it's a bit odd that you will be squishing all these children into a school based on 10 year projections. That is great for the kids in 10 years but in the meantime how does it make sense to close 2 schools and send them all to one that isn't even large enough to hold them?</p>	<p>ridiculous that a brand new school that is meant to house both old schools would need portables right away</p> <p>Comment 2: Renovate Holy Cross. It needs it. But leave St Francis with it's current location</p>
277119	Seems like a waste of money after spending all that money renovating St Francis. The school has been in the community for a very long time and it would be a shame for it to go. I have grandchildren that will soon be registering and it was something I was looking forward to being able to pick them up and take them for lunches.	Use the money to renovate Holy Cross	



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review
Interim Staff Report North Georgetown School Project**

APPENDIX D

Transcribed Comments

Community Consultation Meeting

North Georgetown Modified Pupil Accommodation Review

Thursday, March 3, 2016

✓ = Additional community member in agreement with comment

QUESTION #1

What do you like best about the proposed plan?

- Enriched education opportunity for our kids
- The facility:
 - New
 - No problems
 - Tech advanced
 - Larger outdoor area
 - Better outdoor play
 - Modern 21st century school
 - Larger brighter/windows
 - Nicer larger gym
- Less split classes
- Addresses urgent need for upgraded facility
- Larger school during younger year, makes transition to secondary easier
- We are fortunate to be able to get a brand new school for our children
- I like that the new school will have designated subject rooms i.e. art, science, music
- I like the possibility of having multiple classrooms per grade, therefore having the opportunity to be in a class with new faces each year
- I like the fact that it will be a 21st century technically advanced school
- I like the idea that there will be more resources for the staff to utilize across the grades
- I like the idea of the resource classrooms between the classes for breakout or independent work
- Like the whole plan, offers students lots of opportunities for growth, new facility is good
- Bigger yard
- More extracurricular activity opportunities
- Close proximity to home (live in area)
- Attached childcare centre for younger child
- Modern facility
- Kids in extended French means all kids in family at 1 school
- Natural outdoor play space
- Larger school, easier transition to high school
- More opportunities to go into Extended French, some kids don't go in EF because they have to change schools
- Less split classes – lots of splits in smaller schools
- New building
- Best possible learning environment
- Non-busy part of town
- No stores/retail
- Trails nearby
- Brand new facilities
- New school on par on existing schools within the area

- Giving access to newer technology
- Parking will be better
- Good location
- More green space
- Extracurricular activities
- New
- 21st century learning
- More programs, music, art, science labs etc
- More educational resources and extra-curricular possibilities
- More specialized programs-space for spec. ed.
- No more movement between school for French immersion (extended French)
- Lots of extra space
- Double gym
- Specialized rooms – science, resource
- New facility – different rooms for art
- Digital technology – new
- Replacing old – new and nice
 - Concerns with Holy Cross decay
- Like daycare idea – less split classes a plus
- Location is great
- Like idea of new school (but not size)

QUESTION #2

What are the challenges you see with this plan?

- School too big, busy
- Commute concerns
- Losing personal feeling you get with small school setting
- Danger of pond nearby
- Impact of so many students on the natural setting
- Temporary transition issues
- Parents concerned with buses
- Younger kids have a hard time in a school so large ✓✓
- It's a challenge to build a school so quickly...will it be ready?
- Children going to a school with portables from a school with no portables
- Do we have a strong enough argument to get approval for the funding for this school ✓✓
- Larger population minimizes changes children will keep their existing friends in their classroom
- I foresee that you can't make everyone happy and some may become fixated on one idea and be negative towards the because of it
- I think it's a challenge that even after 10 years, our school will still be over capacity
- Why do we need a daycare when we can allocate those spaces to the students as classrooms, at least in the first ten years.
- Is the YMCA going to still be offered to school aged children
- My concern is that we will lose the small family-oriented school community
- I don't want a delayed start. In order to make the transition easier for everyone, the move should be done over the summer break
- Family transition for new school start times and transportation for newly bused students
- Concern with playground size – will there be staggered recesses?
- Currently each school has 1 sports team per school. I want to make sure that the new school has opportunities for all kids to join teams w/o max

- Traffic increase in Berton/Atwood area
- No challenges (pros outweigh cons)
- Concern with possible VOC with new construction (environmental sensitivities)
 - Need low VOC materials
- No challenges (agree with plan)
- Concern about small size of grass area
- Distance from home, increased travel size
- Don't like the idea of portable
- More bussing, walkers – bus students
- Bussing
- Adjustment for students to larger school
- Number of school moves for students living in Arbour Glen (senior grades)
- Facilitating amalgamation of both school communities
- Some kids have to move twice – 1 - boundary changes, 2 – new school
- Majority of students will be bussed
- Adjustment from 2 small communities to 1 large school
- Integration of 2 communities
- Short time line – will it be ready?
- Worries about children moving school twice in 2 years
- Transition concerns
- Would we continue with our current programs such as food for thought, (use of our oven)
- What happens to our administrative staff
- Small school environment to larger school
- Will we get extra money for updating school technology to fit/work with new school i.e. no extra “new school” funds
- How will our existing resources and technology be brought to 21st century standards

QUESTION #3

Do you have any suggestions to improve this plan?

- Not change Holy Cross boundary until new school is built
- Move forward with plan
- Option to use/share town facility (park beside school site)
- Open new school at the beginning of school year (Sept) to ease transition
- Sell both properties for revenue for the board as opposed to spending more money to maintain them
- What are the obstacles to this happening?
- Ensure there are integrated together
 - Buddy system/pen pal
- Keep Arbour Glen students at St. Catherine for 2016/2017 with buses to reduce the number of school moves for these students
- Build ASAP
- No suggestions for me
- We would like to see the daycare spaces allocated as classrooms for the first few (at least 5) years as to alleviate the portables
- Ask the children – talk to them and ask what they want and find out their concerns. Keep them included.
- I don't have any suggestion for this
- A few of us feel we don't know enough about the plan
- I feel that parents need to be more informed about the impact that will affect their children

- Parents need to be reminded that these are first world problems. We are getting a new school. Children will be transported free of charge. We need to remember kids are resilient. It's the parents that have the problem with this.
- Making sure kids are comfortable with the move
- Tour of new school and events for parents and students at new school
- Parent Council (Parents) input, to bring programs that exist forward i.e. HFFT
- Bring new technology into the school – why bring old i.e. computers
- We have no Plan B.....make sure this happens
- None....I love it ✓✓
- Less Portables ✓✓✓
- Email parents with a summary of all meetings
- Change French Immersion to grade 1 instead of starting @ grade 5



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review
Interim Staff Report North Georgetown School Project**

APPENDIX E

Parking Lot Questions

Community Consultation Meeting for North Georgetown

March 3, 2016

QUESTION:

- Will the school be cleaned by board staff or contractor?

ANSWER:

No decisions have been made at this time.

QUESTION:

- If consolidation does not move forward, what will happen to Holy Cross and St. Francis in regards to enrollment and high cost of maintenance/repairs?
- Will Status quo remain?
- Will an excess of funds continue to be put into the school to maintain operations?

ANSWER:

If the consolidation plan is not approved by the Board of Trustees on April 19th, 2016, staff will continue to find ways to address the accommodation challenges in the North Georgetown Community. We understand that this is an area that has been patiently awaiting a new school for well over 10 years.

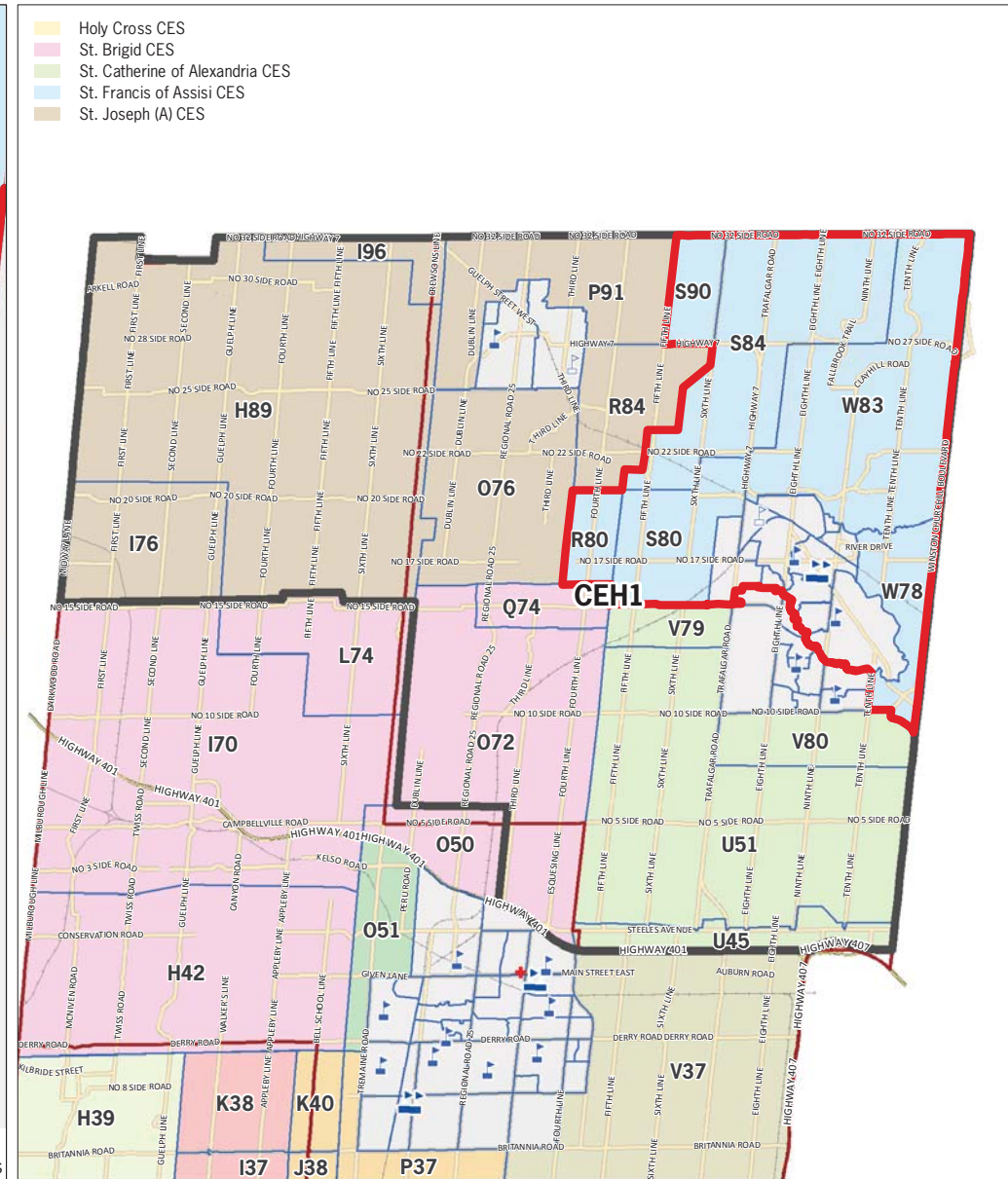
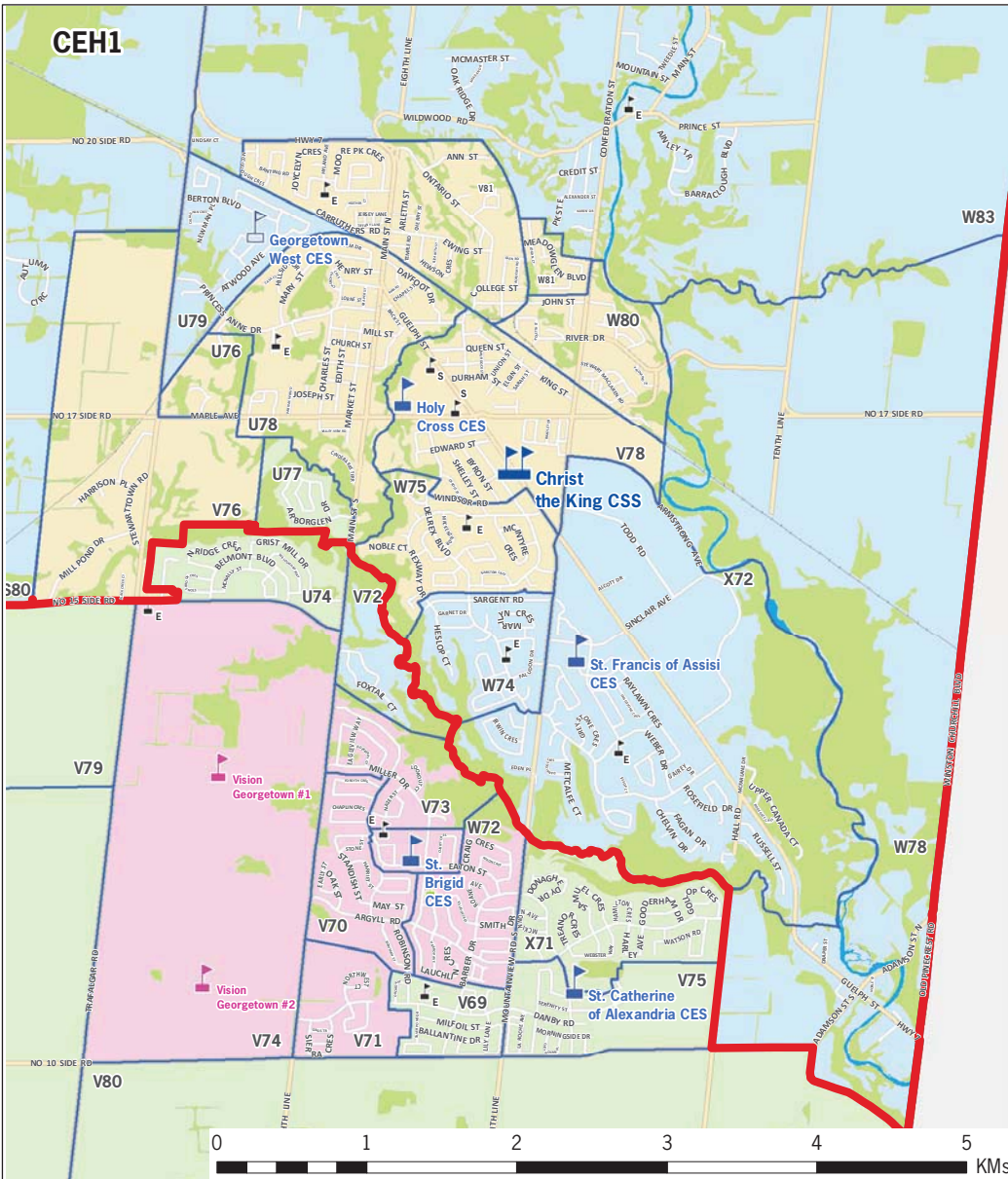
If the project is not funded by the Ministry of Education, as part of the School Consolidation Capital grant, staff would continue to find alternate solutions to introduce a renewed facility in the North Georgetown Community. Staff would look into various options and ways to improve the current status of our schools.

As we continue to move through the Pupil Accommodation Review for North Georgetown and the dates set out for potential approvals and funding, staff would continue to use sustainable and effective means, at the highest rate possible, to maintain and manage school operations.



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review
Interim Staff Report North Georgetown School Project**

APPENDIX F



HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Georgetown North Community Review Area

2016 Accommodation Review Area

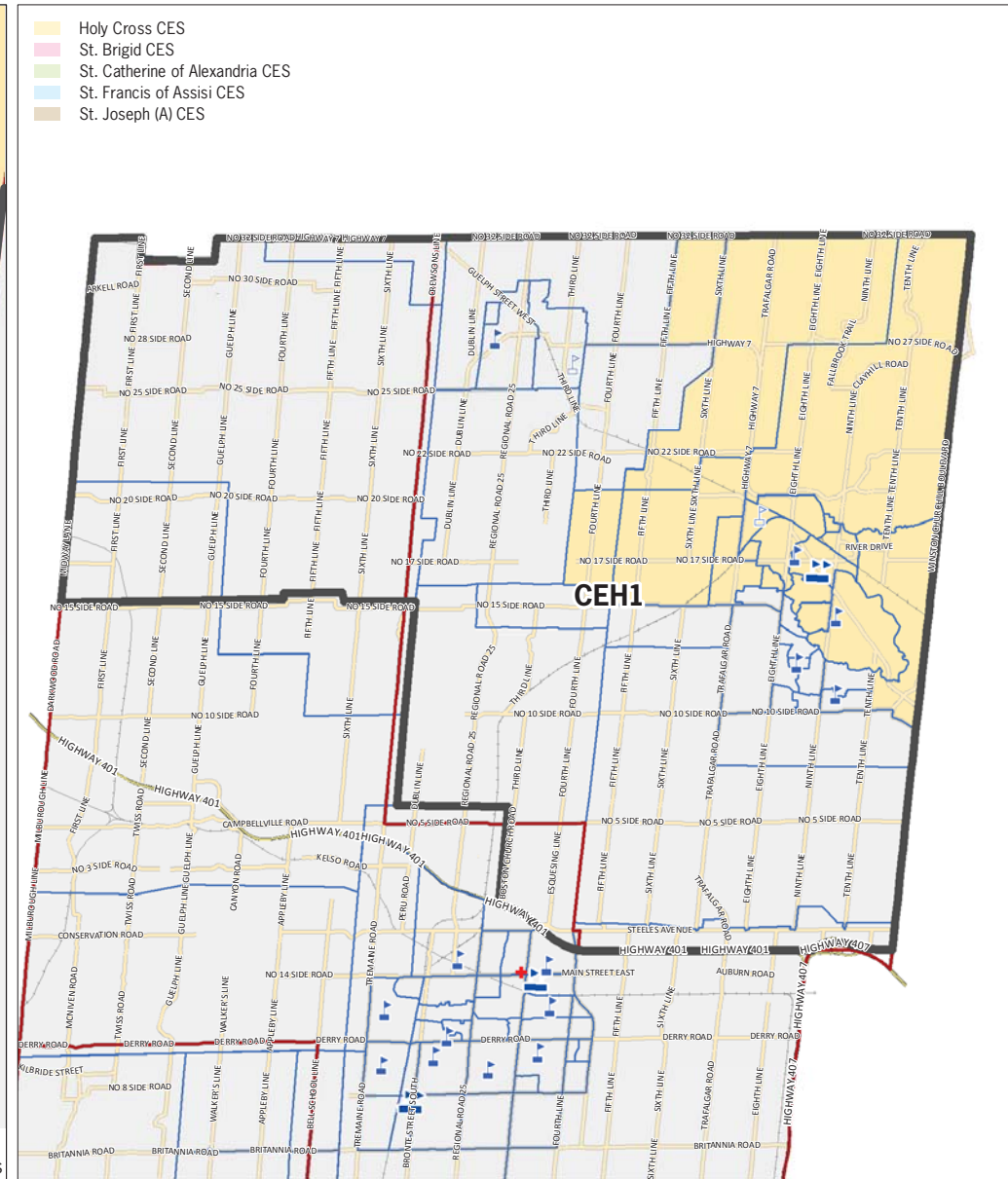
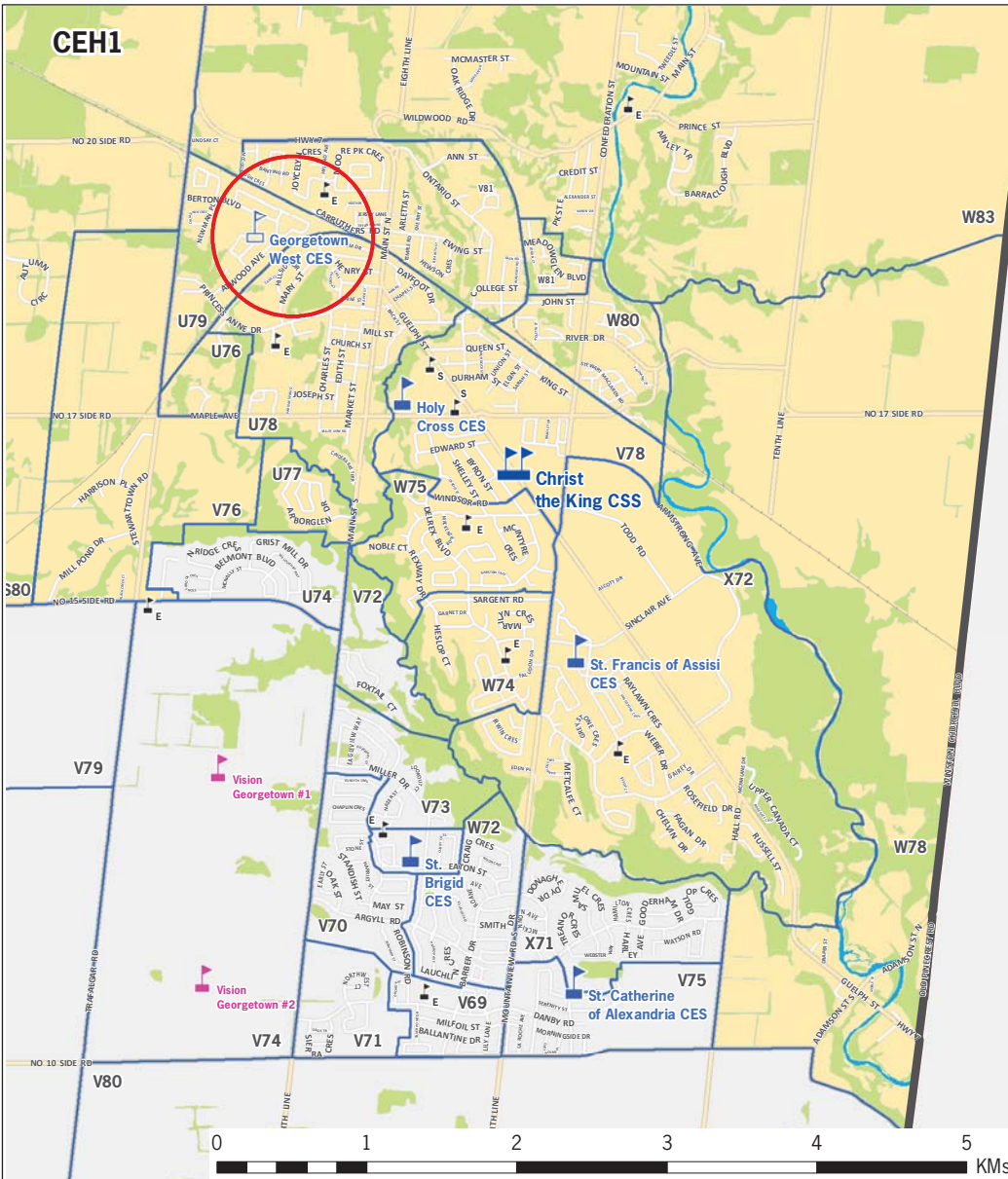
The current street network was provided by the Regional Municipality of Halton and the Region assumes no responsibility or liability for its use or accuracy. Proposed roads are subject to change. It is the intention of the HCDSB to provide up-to-date and accurate information, and reasonable efforts have been made by the HCDSB to verify the information, however a degree of error or change is inherent. This information is distributed "as is" without warranty. HCDSB assumes no legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information. If you require additional information please contact the Planning Services Department at 905-632-6300 or visit www.haltonbs.ca for additional school boundary information.

- HCDSB Schools
- HDSB Schools
- CEB2 - Burlington South QEW RA
- CS Viamonde Schools
- CSDCCS Schools
- Burlington Southwest QEW PAR
- HCDSB Adult Learning Centre
- HCDSB Administration



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review
Interim Staff Report North Georgetown School Project**

APPENDIX G



Georgetown West CES Proposed Boundary

2016 Accommodation Review Area

The current street network was provided by the Regional Municipality of Halton and the Region assumes no responsibility or liability for its use or accuracy. Proposed maps are subject to change. It is the intention of the HCDSB to provide up-to-date and accurate information, and reasonable efforts have been made by the HCDSB to verify the information, however a degree of error or change is inherent. This information is distributed "as is" without warranty. HCDSB assumes no legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information. If you require additional information please contact the Planning Services Department at 905-632-6300 or visit www.haltonbs.ca for additional school boundary information.

HCDSB Schools

HDSB Schools

CEB2 - Burlington South QEW RA

CS Viamonde Schools

CSDCCS Schools

Burlington Southwest QEW PAR

HCDSB Adult Learning Centre

HCDSB Administration

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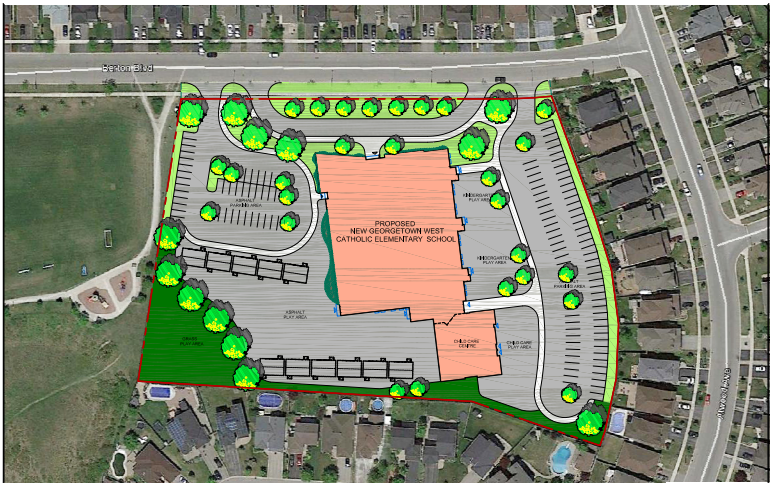
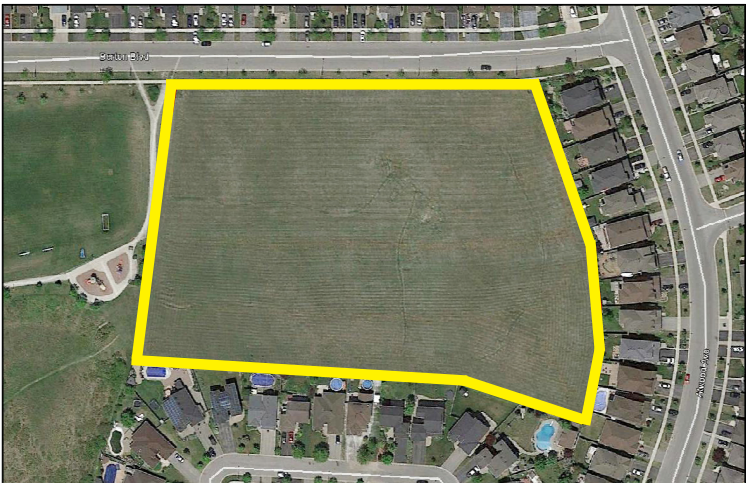


**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review
Interim Staff Report North Georgetown School Project**

APPENDIX H

Berton Boulevard Site

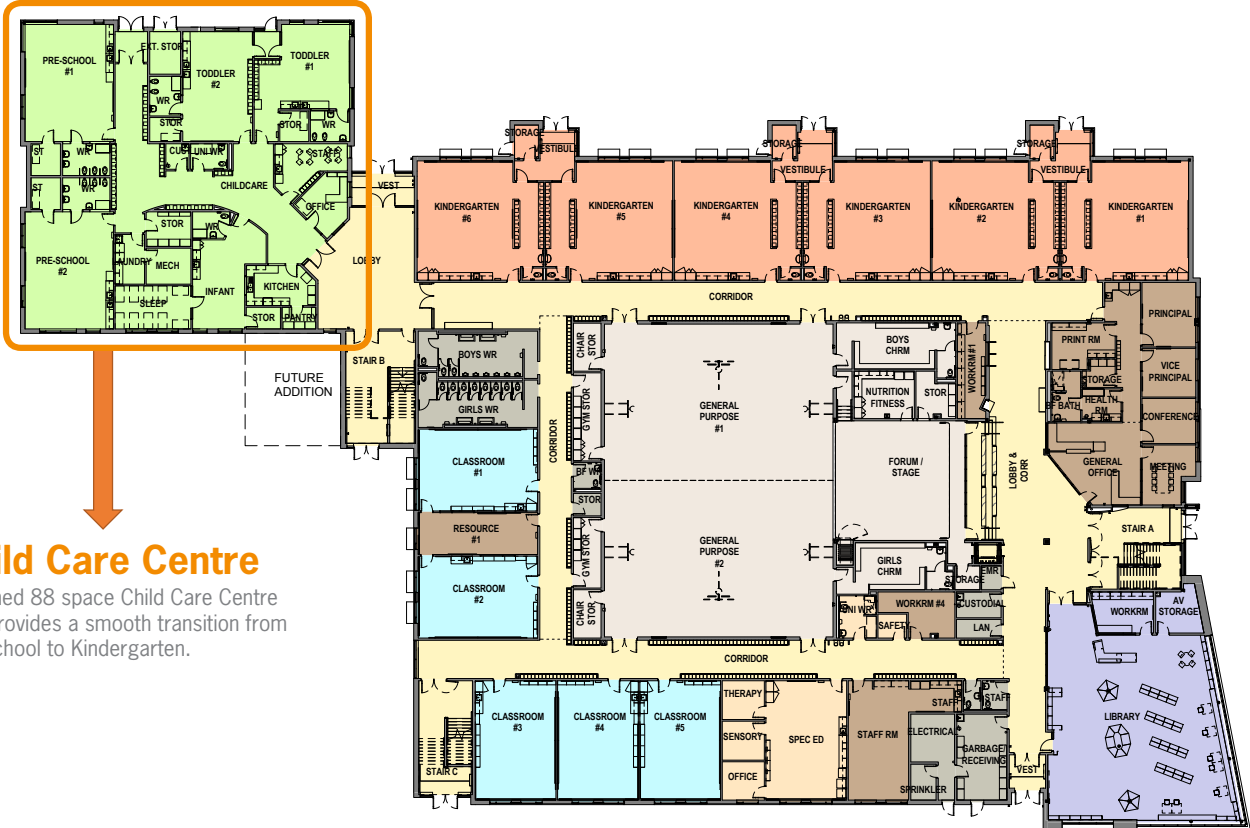
Proposed Site for North Georgetown School



Proposed Concept of North Georgetown School



Proposed Concept of Ground Floor Plan of North Georgetown School



Proposed Concept of Second Floor Plan of North Georgetown School





**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review
Interim Staff Report North Georgetown School Project**

APPENDIX I

Affirmation Letter: Capital Funding for New Construction of Child Care – School Consolidation Capital

School Board Name: Halton Catholic District School Board

School Consolidation Capital Proposal: North Georgetown Community CES

Rank: 1

Current Scenario - Existing Schools

		Existing Licensed Child Care Capacity							
		Spaces				Rooms			
SFIS	School Name	Infant	Toddler	Pre-school	Total	Infant	Toddler	Pre-school	Total
8113	Holy Cross CES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8123	St. Francis of Assisi CES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
					0				0
					0				0
					0				0
TOTAL		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Proposed Solution - Resulting Schools

			Child Care Rooms Being Requested					Opening Date	
School Name		School Address	Postal Code	Rooms			Total		
				Infant	Toddler	Pre-school	Rooms	Spaces	
		Spaces per room		10	15	24			
North Georgetown CES	69 Berton Boulevard, Georgetown	L7G 6C7		1	2	2	5	88	1/09/17 1/09/17
							0	0	
							0	0	
							0	0	
TOTAL				1	2	2	5	88	

This is to affirm that this Affirmation Letter has been jointly approved by the school board and Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) or District School Services Administration Board (DSSAB) listed below. The school board has the support of the corresponding CMSM/DSSAB regarding the eligibility and viability requirements to build child care rooms and create spaces for ages 0 to 3.8 years in the identified schools and affirms that the new spaces will not result in an operating pressure for the CMSM/DSSAB.

Please Note: For this request to be considered for funding, this Affirmation Letter must be submitted as part of the school board's School Consolidation Capital business case. A copy must also be provided to your school board's Ministry Early Years Regional Staff (Education Officer and Child Care Advisor) and Capital Analyst.

Halton Region
Name of CMSM/DSSAB

Mary Beth Jones
Manager of Children's Services (CMSM/DSSAB) Name

Mary Beth Jones
Manager of Children's Services (CMSM/DSSAB) Signature

Feb 26, 2016
Date

Halton Catholic DSB
Director of Education (School Board) Name

Dawson
Director of Education (School Board) Signature

Feb. 26/16
Date

Over for Project
Details →

The Halton Catholic District School is requesting \$13,400,465 in funding under the Ministry of Education's 2015 School Consolidation Capital Funding (Memorandum 2015: B16) to support the consolidation of the two (2) affected schools into a newly constructed 671 pupil place facility located on the Berton Boulevard Site in Georgetown (purchased in 2004 for a Holy Cross replacement facility) for the 2017-18 school year.

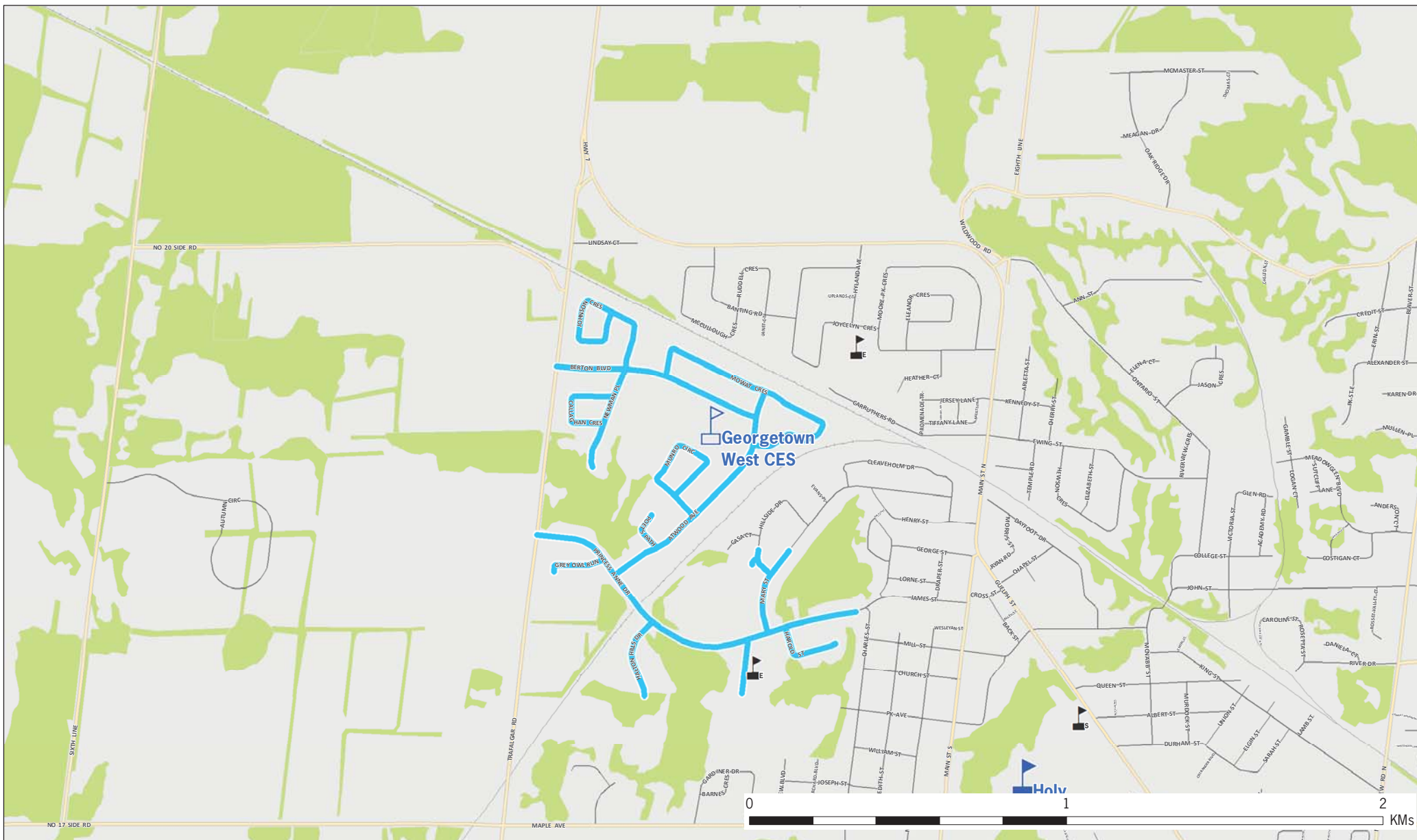
The Board is also requesting \$2,520,850 in funding to construct a five (5) room 8,600 square foot child-care centre under the Ministry of Education's 2015 Capital Funding for New Construction of Child Care – School Consolidation Capital (Memorandum 2015: B16). Altogether, the Board is requesting a total funding envelope of \$15,921,315 for the Georgetown North Community School.

Also note that the Region of Halton is also reviewing opportunities to potentially add a second floor to the proposed 8,600 child care wing to incorporate additional Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres uses to further enhance the community hub experience at the proposed school.




**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review
Interim Staff Report North Georgetown School Project**

APPENDIX J



Proposed North Georgetown CES 1.6km Walking Web

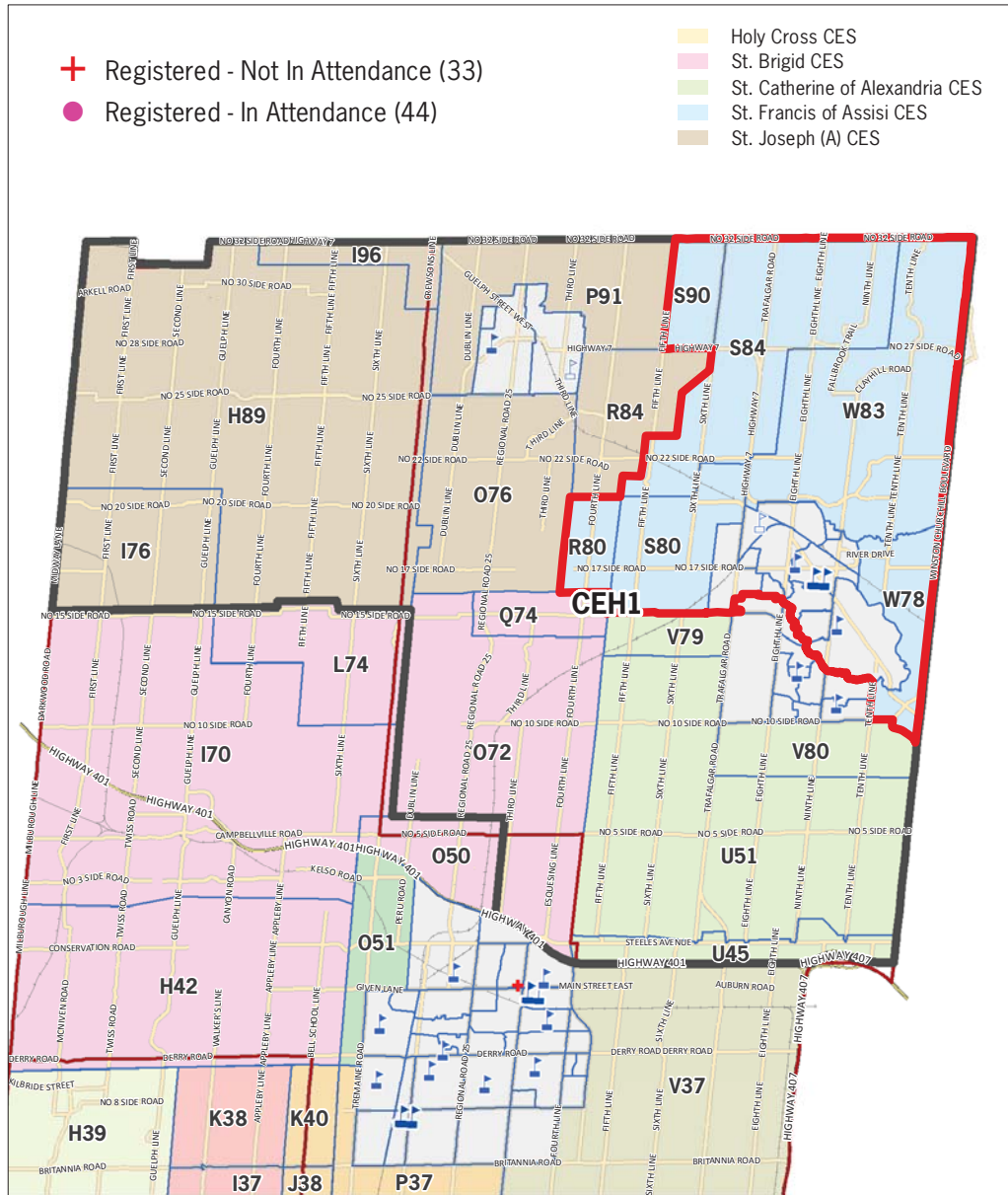
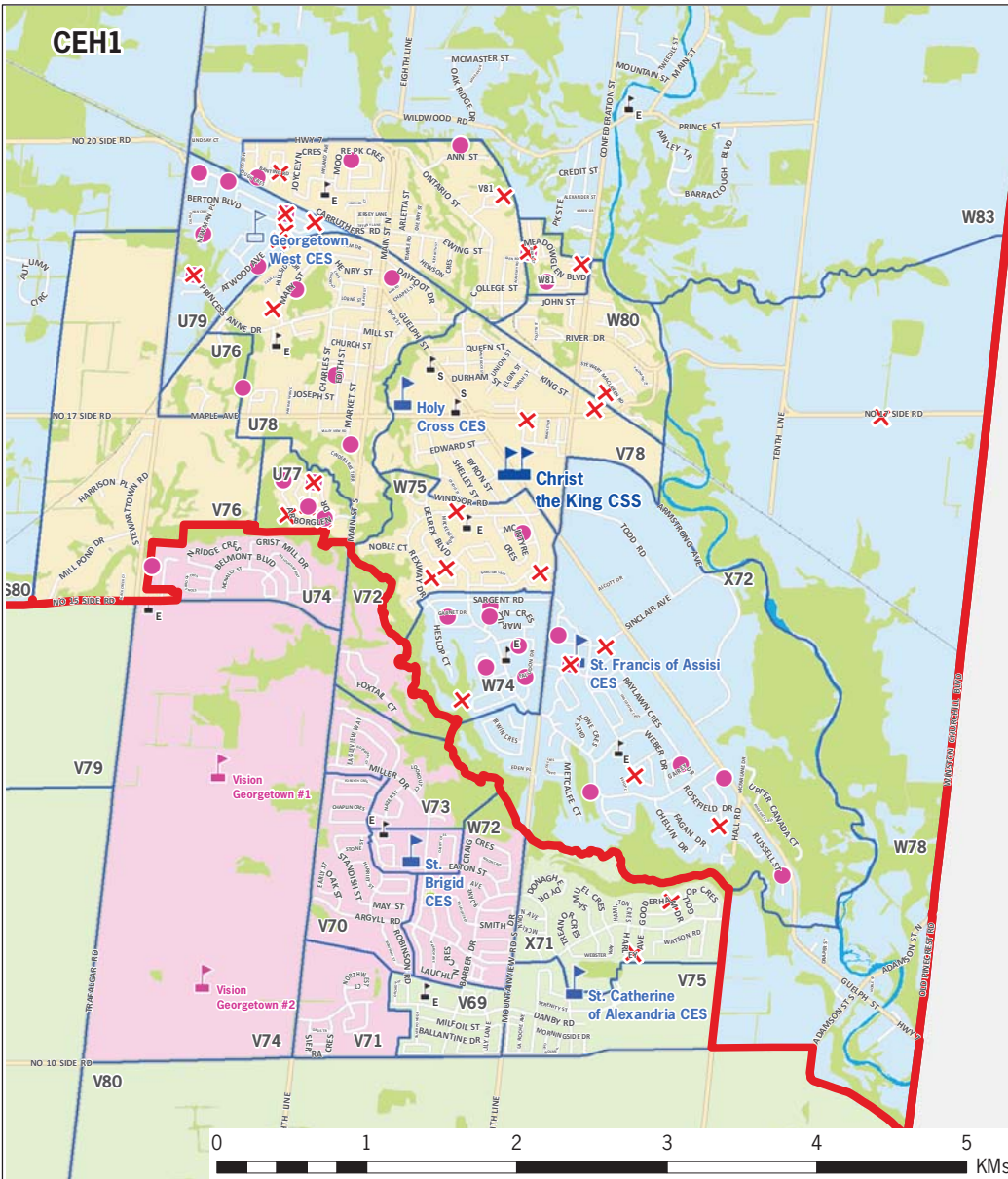
North Georgetown CES Accommodation Review Area

-  HCDSB Schools
  CS Viamonde Schools
  HCDSB Adult Learning Centre
 HDSB Schools
  CSDCCS Schools
  HCDSB Administration
 Crossing Guard Location
  North Georgetown Web
  Exception Areas



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review
Interim Staff Report North Georgetown School Project**

APPENDIX K



Georgetown North Community Review Area

Community Consultation Meeting Attendees

The current street network was provided by the Regional Municipality of Halton and the Region assumes no responsibility or liability for its use or accuracy. Proposed roads are subject to change. It is the intention of the HCDSB to provide up-to-date and accurate information, and reasonable efforts have been made by the HCDSB to verify the information, however a degree of error or change is inherent. This information is distributed "as is" without warranty. HCDSB assumes no legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information. If you require additional information please contact the Planning Services Department at 905-632-6300 or visit www.haltonbus.ca for additional school boundary information.

- HCDSB Schools
- CS Viamonde Schools
- HCDSB Adult Learning Centre
- HDSB Schools
- CSDCCS Schools
- HCDSB Administration
- CEH1 - Georgetown RA
- CEH1 - North Georgetown QEW PAR

STAFF REPORT

ITEM 4.2

**BURLINGTON SOUTHEAST QEW MODIFIED PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW
INTERIM STAFF REPORT**

PURPOSE:

To provide the Board of Trustees with a copy of the **Interim Staff Report** for the Burlington Southeast QEW Modified Pupil Accommodation Review Report, summarizing the status of the process and presenting the collated community feedback.

BACKGROUND:

1. Information Report 10.4, "2016 Annual Accommodation Review", from the January 19, 2016 Regular Board Meeting.
2. Staff Report 9.2, "2015 School Consolidation Capital Project Proposals", from the January 5, 2016 Regular Board Meeting.
3. Action Report 8.4, "Burlington Southeast QEW Modified Pupil Accommodation Review", from the January 19, 2016 Regular Board Meeting

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Modified Pupil Accommodation Review Interim Staff Report

Burlington Southeast QEW School Project

March 22, 2016

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Appendix B	Online Forum Communications Package
Appendix C	Online Survey Information Package
Appendix D	Community Consultation Meeting Information Package
Appendix E	Parking Lot Questions from Community Consultation Meeting
Appendix F	Other Communications
Appendix G	Review Area and Accommodation Review Area
Appendix H	Proposed Attendance Boundary Option
Appendix I	Proposed Concept
Appendix J	Signed Affirmation Letter
Appendix K	1.6km Walking Map
Appendix L	Location of Registrants and Attendees

1.0 Executive Summary

At the January 19, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Board, Trustees approved a recommendation to undertake a Modified Pupil Accommodation Review (MPAR) for Burlington Southeast QEW, an area bounded by the QEW to the north, Burloak Drive to the East, Lake Ontario to the South and generally Walker's Line north of New Street, Pine Cove Road south of new street to the west. This review area is comprised of the following schools; Ascension School, St. Patrick School and St. Raphael School.

Staff presented an Initial Staff Report that recommended one (1) option to address the declining enrolment and underutilized accommodation issues present in the review area. In addition, the report provided context about the considerations made in developing the recommended option as well as the rationale for undertaking a Modified Pupil Accommodation Review (MPAR) for Burlington Southeast QEW.

The recommended option consisted of a **consolidation of the three (3) affected schools into one (1) rebuilt 648 pupil place school on the Ascension School site**. The scenario consisted of all students in the review area be accommodated in a proposed new Burlington Southeast School, to be constructed on the Ascension School site for the 2017-18 school year, at the earliest.

The Initial Staff Report included the following resources and can be found online:

- A) Documentation of required work completed prior to the accommodation review;
- B) Summary of background data used in option developed by staff;
- C) Summary of accommodation issues for the schools under review; and,
- D) Preferred accommodation option.

Following the January 19, 2016 Board approval to undertake an MPAR, staff proceeded to notify the community about the accommodation review process as well as solicit feedback on the proposed accommodation plan. All information was made available through the Board's website (www.hcdsb.org).

Staff took the opportunity to present the recommended scenario to the three (3) local parent/school councils and school staff at all three (3) schools, the affected parish representatives, the City of Burlington, the Diocese of Hamilton, and to the wider community through the Community Consultation Meeting (CCM), held on March 2, 2016, at Assumption Catholic Secondary School (CSS). A summary of the full communication strategy is presented as Appendix A.

An online forum was also developed to enable the community to have a shared dialogue about the proposal. The forum was made available beginning on January 27, 2016. In addition to the forum, a three (3) question on-line survey was made available from February 17 to March 11, 2016. All communication shared in the online forum and survey are attached as Appendix B and Appendix C, respectively.

The Community Consultation Meetings also provided an opportunity for parents and stakeholders to submit comments and questions for Board staff to address. A summary package of the information gathered at the CCM and the “parking lot questions” and answers are attached as Appendix D and Appendix E, respectively. Questions that staff were not able to answer at the CCM were added to the parking lot. Answers to the parking lot questions were subsequently uploaded to the Board website one (1) week following the CCM. A summary of the themes contained within the comments received from stakeholders is also provided in section 3.2.

A summary of the communication process is as follows:

1. Board website updated on January 20, 2016 – Pupil Accommodation Review button placed prominently on the landing page of the website. Updates ongoing.
2. Email letters and FAQ sheet distributed to each parent and staff member in the impacted school communities on January 20, 2016. Follow up emails sent to parents on January 27th, February 17th, February 25th, and March 9th.
3. Copy of letter to staff and an FAQ sheet shared with Presidents of Unionized Employee Groups on January 20, 2016.
4. Letter sent via email to St. Patrick Parish Pastor and St. Raphael Parish Pastor on January 26, 2016.
5. Hardcopy letters hand-delivered on January 26, 2016 to neighbours and residents adjacent to and abutting the school communities.
6. Online discussion forum; Available from January 27, 2016
(www.muut.com/burlington-southeast-mpar)
7. Media Release – Distributed January 28, 2016
8. Letters sent to Regional Chair, Mayor of Burlington and Local Councillors, and Member of Provincial Parliament for Burlington on January 29, 2016.
9. Presentations to School Staff
(January 25, 2016 at St. Patrick CES, February 3, 2016 at Ascension CES, February 5, 2016 at St. Raphael CES)

10. Presentations to Catholic School Councils
(February 11, 2016 at St. Raphael CES, February 17, 2016 at St. Patrick CES,
February 25, 2016 at Ascension CES)
11. An online survey; Available February 17 to March 11, 2016.
12. School newsletter/website message was provided to schools.
13. Community Consultation Meeting on March 8, 2016, at Assumption CSS
 - a. Parking Lot Questions
 - b. Transcribed Responses to Questions

Staff will present to Trustees at the March 22, 2016 Special Meeting of the Board the feedback and input that has been gathered to date. On April 5, 2016, The Board of Trustees will receive delegations from the community regarding the Burlington Southeast Schools Consolidation Proposal. The information received from the delegations and any other pertinent information will be included in the Final Report to the Board. The Final Report will be presented to Trustees as an Action Item at the April 19, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Board, when a final decision and approval by the Board is anticipated.

2.0 Initial Staff Report Summary (January 19, 2016)

2.1 Annual School Board Planning

Planning staff develop a number of reports on an annual basis in support of school accommodation planning. The outcomes of these reports indicate that declining enrolment is a reality in the Burlington Southeast QEW review area. This finding aligns with Staff's initial recommended option to consolidate three (3) schools in Burlington Southeast QEW to address declining enrolment trends in the area.

2.1.1 15-Year Projection Update

A December 15, 2015, report to Board contained a 15 year forecast of enrolment projections for the Region of Halton. In the context of the **CEB2: Burlington – South of QEW** Review Area, staff projected that enrolment would continue to decline over the next fifteen (15) year period, leaving the facilities within the area consistently underutilized.

2.1.2 LTCP and Annual Facilities Accommodation Report

The Long Term Capital Plan (LTCP) is released on a five year cycle for the entire Region of Halton, and was most recently updated in June 2013. This document compiles the Board's long term enrolment projections and contemplates future projects for creating new pupil places, renewing school facilities, and removing excess pupil places from the Board's inventory through pupil accommodation reviews.

The LTCP is a living document that is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure changing trends are reflected in the plan. The LTCP can be accessed on the Board's website:

<http://www.hcdsb.org/Board/LTCP/Pages/default.aspx>

The 2013 Long Term Capital Plan acknowledged the declining enrolment within the **CEB2 Burlington South of QEW Review Area**, and **suggested that a pupil accommodation review be undertaken in the area to reduce excess capacity by 1,100 pupil places** and reduce overall renewal needs by removing aging schools from the Board's building inventory.

In addition, as part of the Board's annual review for the 2015-16 school year, staff completed the Annual Facility Accommodation Report, as per the requirements of Operating Policy I-37: Community Planning & Facilities Partnerships, and presented the report to community stakeholders on January 18, 2016.

2.1.3 Consultation with Local & Regional Municipalities

On an ongoing basis, as a part of the yearly review of accommodation needs and the daily operations of the Planning Services Department, staff consults with local municipalities and receives planning information on a number of development related matters.

This information is used in the development of short and long-term enrolment forecasts, and the determination of future Board accommodation needs in both established and new neighbourhoods. Staff regularly liaise with municipal staff to discuss future needs within the target municipalities, and align future capital investments wherever feasible (i.e. park facilities, childcare, city services).

As part of the MPAR process, staff met with the City of Burlington on February 17, 2016 to discuss the proposed accommodation plans for the Burlington Southeast QEW and Burlington Southwest QEW accommodation review areas. City staff were supportive of the proposal.

Based on community concerns, staff met again with the City of Burlington on March 10, 2016, to discuss the enhancement of pedestrian safety and options to mitigate traffic concerns along New Street which is the location of the (proposed Burlington Southeast QEW School.

2.2 Accommodation Review Area Overview

The **Burlington Southeast QEW** Accommodation Review Area is located within the **CEB2 South of the QEW review area** as identified in the Board's 2013 Long-Term Capital Plan, both of which are displayed geographically in Appendix G. The three (3) elementary schools located within the Accommodation Review Area include Ascension School, St. Patrick School, and St. Raphael School. The boundary of the accommodation review area is comprised of the three aforementioned school boundaries combined, shown in Appendix H.

A cursory overview of each affected schools within the review area is summarized below in Table 1, and is further supplemented by the information found within the SIPs, in Appendix C of the Initial Staff Report, which was presented to Board on January 19, 2016.

Table 1 Historic & Projected Enrolment Burlington Southeast QEW Review Area

School Name	OTG	2011	2015	2020	2025	Original Construction	FCI	Site Size
Ascension CES	409	335	268	232	236	1964	36%	5.75 ac.
		93%	74%	64%	66%			
St. Patrick CES	337	240	248	257	232	1970	22%	4.0 ac.
		71%	74%	76%	69%			
St. Raphael CES	372	283	251	195	177	1958	49%	1.86 ac.
		90%	80%	62%	56%			
Head Count	1,118	858	767	684	645			
Utilization (%)		77%	69%	61%	58%			
Surplus Space (+,-)		260	351	434	473			

The area under review has been classified as a maturing neighbourhood by staff, as enrolment has been decreasing over the last five (5) years and is expected to continue decreasing over the long term as neighbourhoods continue to age, as demonstrated in Table 1. Over the course of the past five (5) years (2011-2015), enrolment within the affected schools has declined by approximately 11% overall, and is projected to decline an additional 11% by 2020 (5 year), and by 16% by 2025 (10 year). It is anticipated that the rate of decline will remain stable over a 10 year period, as larger senior classrooms are replaced by smaller kindergarten registrations where declines are anticipated to plateau.

The overall utilization of schools within the **Burlington Southeast QEW** is anticipated to continue decreasing over the next ten (10) years as the neighbourhood continues to mature. Today the school's utilization stands at an average 69% overall. Enrolment in all three (3) schools is distributed relatively evenly within the accommodation review area.

In reviewing long-term enrolment trends as well as future development potential, it does not appear that the underutilized spaces will be filled, leaving these school facilities operating at well below the 90% optimal utilization. A boundary review for all schools within the **CEB2: Burlington South of QEW Review Area** with the aim to re-apportion students is not a viable opportunity in this scenario to enhance utilization. To achieve an optimal utilization, empty classroom spaces would need to be removed from the Board's inventory.

As an additional verification, staff retained Watson and Associates to conduct a peer review of the enrolment projections generated by staff, complete a demographic analysis of the affected areas served by the three (3) schools, and the merit of the proposal presented in the Initial Staff Report. The peer review confirmed staff's long term projections, and concluded

that the proposed school consolidation project was viable and met the conditions set out by the Ministry of Education.

2.2.1 Enrolment Projections

Table 2 below illustrates the enrolment projections for the schools within the **Burlington Southeast QEW** accommodation review area. As mentioned previously, the enrolment projections were reviewed and supported by third party consultants (Watson and Associates).

Table 2: Projected Enrolment – Burlington Southeast QEW Accommodation Review Area

School Name	OTG	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Ascension CES	409	268	261	251	242	236	232	238	236	239	238	236
		74%	73%	70%	67%	66%	64%	66%	66%	66%	66%	66%
St. Patrick CES	337	248	251	259	267	259	257	256	248	248	246	232
		74%	74%	77%	79%	77%	76%	76%	74%	74%	73%	69%
St. Raphael CES	372	251	239	225	215	199	195	199	191	186	180	177
		80%	76%	72%	68%	63%	62%	63%	61%	59%	57%	56%
Head Count	1,118	767	751	735	724	694	684	693	675	673	664	645
Utilization (%)		69%	67%	66%	65%	62%	61%	62%	60%	60%	59%	58%
Surplus Space (+, -)		351	367	383	394	424	434	425	443	445	454	473

2.2.2 Academic Programs

As part of the recommendation, staff seek to re-direct all existing programs offered at the three (3) affected schools to the proposed new Burlington Southeast QEW School (Ascension Site), all of which are part of the Assumption Catholic Secondary School Family of Schools. Accordingly, the newly constructed Burlington Southeast School will offer the regular track JK-8 program, with two self-contained programs, being the Structure Teaching Classroom (STC) and Essential Skills Classroom (ESC).

All programming will be in conformity with the Board's long-term strategy in offering a 21st Century Learning experience.

Through the community consultation process, it was suggested that a French Immersion Program should be explored as an added enhancement to the new school. Although the program is currently under review, there is opportunity upon request to explore the potential of adding Extended French Immersion in south Burlington as its viability would be greatly enhanced with a larger school population as opposed to the current situation which is not

viable. However it is not expected that FI will increase the overall enrolment of the proposed school as the FI program would primarily draw students who are already located within the proposed new school's boundary.

2.2.3 Facility Condition Index (FCI)

Using a 5-year renewal needs, an FCI can be calculated. Table 3 below summarizes the 5-year FCI for all three affected schools within the **Burlington Southeast QEW** accommodation review area.

Table 3: Facility Condition Index Summary

SCHOOL NAME	ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION	OTG	5 YEAR RENEWAL NEEDS	REPLACEMENT VALUE	FACILITY CONDITION INDEX
Ascension CES	1964	409	\$3,033,265	\$8,456,820	36 %
St. Patrick CES	1970	337	\$1,790,169	\$8,159,610	22 %
St. Raphael CES	1958	314	\$3,819,489	\$7,844,890	49 %
TOTAL	1964 (avg.)	1,118	\$8,642,923	\$24,461,320	35% (avg.)

The average age of the three facilities within the accommodation review area is approximately 51 years, with construction dates ranging from 1958 to 1970. School facilities within this age range typically have many critical building components that are reaching the end of their useful lifecycle. As shown in Table 3 above, the average Facility Condition Index of the three facilities is approximately 35%, with a total 5-year renewal need of approximately \$8.6M dollars and replacement value of all three facilities of approximately \$24.5M. It is important to note that the facility renewal costs account primarily for the replacement of critical building components and does not account for improvement items such as accessibility, fire code improvements, LED lighting, natural kindergarten playgrounds and other modernization improvements. The on-the-ground capacity for each of the three facilities within the accommodation review area is well below the optimal school facility size of 500-671 pupil places.

2.2.4 School Site Description

The site conditions at the three facilities within the accommodation review area can be summarized as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Option Development Criteria Summary – Burlington Southeast QEW

SCHOOL	SITE SIZE (ACRES)	SITE DESCRIPTION
Ascension CES	5.75	Preferred site size and adjacent to Robert Bateman Public High School. Adequate parking and bus loading area.
St. Patrick CES	4.00	Undersized site, but adjacent to Mohawk Park. Adequate parking and bus loading area. Adjacent to St. Patrick Church.
St. Raphael CES	1.86	Undersized site. No parking or bus loading area on school property. Parking and bus loading areas are provided on the site of the adjacent St. Raphael Church.

Table 5 below details how each school, in its current state, meets the preferred development criteria to be considered when reviewing pupil accommodation options.

Table 5: Option Development Criteria Summary – Burlington Southeast QEW Status Quo

CRITERIA	ASCENSION CES	ST. PATRICK CES	ST. RAPHAEL CES
Facility Utilization between 90-125%	No	No	No
500-671 FBC	No	No	No
Portable Classroom Needs	No	No	No
Fully Accessible	No	No	No
Transportation Time	Well below maximum travel times, comparable to the Board average of 14 minutes.	Well below maximum travel times, comparable to the Board average of 14 minutes.	Well below maximum travel times, comparable to the Board average of 14 minutes.
Average Distance to School	1.75 kilometers	1.46 kilometers	2.14 kilometers
Site Size (Approx. 5+ acres)	Preferred size (5.75 acres)	Under preferred size (4.0 acres)	Under preferred size (1.86 acres)
Adjacent Uses	Residential; Public Secondary School	Church; Community Park; Residential	Church; Residential
Site Limitation	N/A	N/A	No parking or bus loading area on school property; limited playground space, with no grass

As part of the consultation process, Staff was frequently asked why the Ascension School Site was identified as the preferred location of the new school. When staff reviewed the potential site options, it was not solely a matter of the site acreage, the following considerations were also made:

- 1) **The Centrality of the site in relation to where students reside** – in this instance, Ascension School captures the highest number of kids within a 5 km radius in comparison to St. Patrick and St. Raphael School.
- 2) **Transportation Times and Average Distance to School** – In being more central, the transportation times are reduced and the average distances are also in turn reduced.
- 3) **Adjacent uses** – Staff has regard for the adjacent uses if they present an impediment to the proper operations of a school. Although there is a Secondary School adjacent to the site, staggered bell times can offset vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- 4) **Usable site acreage for St. Patrick School** – The St. Patrick School site is 4.0 acres which is not optimal for the proposed school size. Furthermore, the Board is not in a position to purchase any acreage from Mohawk park (as suggested by the community), as the City of Burlington has already notified staff of the parkland deficit in the area.
- 5) **Usable site acreage for St. Raphael School** – The St. Raphael School site is 1.86 acres, and cannot accommodate a 648 pupil place facility. The site is also, decentralized from the area in which it would need to serve.
- 6) **Traffic Mitigate** – The community expressed concerns of having a school located on New Street. In discussion with both St. Raphael School and Ascension School parent councils, there has been very little concerns expressed. Moreover, staff has also consulted with City Staff on potential way New Street traffic could be further mitigated following the implementation of this plan – if approved.

Although St. Patrick School is designated as the holding school for the transition year, staff does not believe this is an ideal location for the long-term, but adequate for the short term.

2.2.5 Transportation Summary Data

Current transportation data was provided by the Halton Student Transportation Service (HSTS). Student data was derived from the 2015-16 school year, and aggregated into the data displayed in Table 6.

As of the December 31, 2015, transportation data, there are a total of 178 transported students within the **Burlington Southeast QEW Neighbourhood**. A preliminary analysis of the proposed attendance boundary for the proposed Burlington Southeast School estimates that a total of 380 students would be eligible for transportation, which is 49% of the student school population.

HSTS has informed staff that for the 2015-16 school year, the average bus times for students enrolled in the Regular Track program of the Board is approximately 14 minutes. It can be anticipated that travel times can range between 15-25 minutes within the area.

Table 6: Transportation Summary Data for Status Quo

SCHOOL NAME	TOTAL STUDENTS	ELIGIBLE RIDERS	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS	AVERAGE DISTANCE
Ascension CES	268	92	126	47%	1.75 km
St. Patrick CES	248	0	0	0%	1.46 km
St. Raphael CES	251	86	90	36%	2.14 km

NOTE: As per the HSTS Operating Procedure HS-1-003 – Eligibility Factors, elementary students that reside more than 1.6 kilometers from their home school are eligible for transportation. Eligibility for transportation may also be granted in instances where there are potential safety hazards along the student route. See Appendix K Walking Map.

2.2.6 Meeting Program Needs and Accessibility Standards

21st Century Learning environments require flexible spaces that can be used for multiple purposes, including group collaboration, breakout meetings and one-to-one teaching. All facilities within the accommodation review area were evaluated against the Board's standard for the construction of new school facilities for several programming criteria. The results of this evaluation are summarized in Table 7.

Table 7: Facility Programming Needs

CRITERIA	BENCHMARK	ASCENSION CES	ST. PATRICK CES	ST. RAPHAEL CES
Gymnasium	Double gym	Single gym	Single gym	Single gym
Kindergarten Space	1,100 m ² with washroom	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
Resource Rooms/Space	~1 Resource room per 100 pupil places	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate
Program Teacher Workspace	Workstation + resource storage	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate
Accessibility	Meet AODA Standards	No	No	No

2.3 Initial Staff Report Recommendation

Staff recommended the consolidation of three (3) schools (namely Ascension School, St. St. Patrick School and St. Raphael School) into a **newly constructed 648 pupil place facility located on the existing Ascension School site for the 2017-18 school year**. Staff also proposes to construct an 88 place, five (5) room, 8,600 square foot child-care centre supported by Halton Region. The concept plan and signed affirmation letter supporting the proposed childcare is available in Appendix I and Appendix J respectively.

To fund the project, the Board is requesting **\$15,513,801** for the Burlington Southeast QEW School Project **which consists of \$12,992,951 SCC Funding and \$2,520,850 Child Care Funding** as part of Ministry Memorandum B16: School Consolidation Capital, submitted on February 29, 2016.

Staff recommends that the following actions be taken within the **Burlington Southeast QEW** accommodation review area:

- 1) Demolish the existing Ascension School, and construct a 648 pupil place elementary school on the existing site for the 2017-2018 school year, with an 88 places five (5) room child-care centre wing;
- 2) Close both St. Patrick School and St. Raphael School facilities, and re-locate the existing Burlington Thomas Merton Adult Learning Centre (currently leased commercial space) into either St. Patrick CES or St. Raphael CES; and,
- 3) If no interest is declared through the Board exploring options for public/community organizations to take over the surplus school facility, Board approval would be sought

to dispose of the remaining surplus school facility through the Ontario Regulation 444/98 disposition process.

As indicated in Table 8 below, the proposed accommodation plan would have the effect of removing a total of 470 spaces and achieving an average 10 year utilization of approximately 105%. This plan will also allow for a number of operational and capital/renewal savings over a 10 year period. (this is discussed further in 2.3.2. and 2.3.3.)As well, this plan ensures that programming, accessibility standards, and energy efficiency will be significantly enhanced with the construction of a new state of the art facility.

Table 8: Projection – Burlington Southeast QEW School Rebuild

School Name	OTG	Opening	5 year projection					10 year projection				
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Burlington Southeast School	648	733	723	691	685	697	679	678	669	653	646	639
		113%	112 %	107 %	106 %	108 %	105 %	105 %	103 %	101 %	100 %	99%
Surplus Space (+,-)		-85	-75	-43	-37	-49	-31	-30	-21	-5	2	9

As part of the recommendation, staff also seeks to re-direct all existing programs offered at the three (3) affected schools to the new Burlington Southeast QEW School facility. The newly constructed school will offer the regular JK-8 program, with two self-contained special education programs.

2.3.1 Walking and Transportation Considerations

A preliminary analysis of the proposed attendance boundary for the proposed Burlington Southeast QEW School estimates that a total of 380 students would be eligible for transportation, which is 49% of the student school population. The average distance for students to the new school is approximately 2.24 kilometers (max distance of 4.28 kilometers), this will result in an increase of 0.46 km to the average distance from the current situation. Below, Table 9 summarizes the current situation and the proposed solution:

Table 9: Transportation Comparison Summary

SCHOOL NAME	TOTAL STUDENTS (OCTOBER 2015)	ELIGIBLE RIDERS (DECEMBER 2015)	PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS	AVERAGE DISTANCE	TOTAL BUSSING COST
Status Quo (Current)	767	178	23%	1.78 km	\$309,000
Proposed Solution	767	380	49%	2.24 km	\$272,000
Difference		+202	+26%	+0.46 km	-\$37,000

The Halton Student Transportation Service (HSTS), confirms that although a higher number of students will be transported, with the use of a higher distribution of large buses over small buses, the annual busing costs are anticipated to decrease by approximately \$37,000 because larger buses are cheaper to operate on a per student basis than small buses. Please refer to Appendix K for an estimated walking distance map.

The transportation needs cost estimate analysis conducted by HSTS reviewed the current number of vehicle routes operating in the affected area and compared it to the consolidation proposal by completing proposed routes based on the new boundary to calculate the number of future busing route needs. The projected costs assumed an increase in route costs (inflation) over two (2) years and route sharing with the co-terminus board (HDSB). Further savings are anticipated depending on the overall program needs in the future of both boards, which at this time have not been considered.

2.3.2 Current vs. Proposed Capital Cost Savings

Currently, the 5 year renewal needs for the three (3) affected schools amount to approximately \$8.6M, which is expected to rise to approximately \$11.4M over a 10 year period. At 5 years, this total amounts to 65% of the proposed consolidation project construction cost of \$13.4M, and at 10 years, 85% of the construction and renewal costs for a new school facility. This information is summarised in

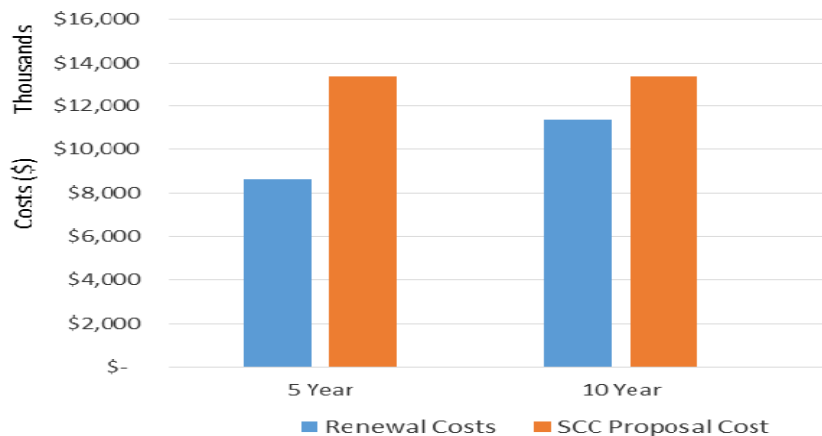
Table 10 and in Figure 1.

In renewal costs alone, the payback period is expected to be reached within a 15 year timeframe (10 years with operational savings), where renewal needs would not account for any required investments to update existing facilities with current accessibility, fire code improvements, LED lighting, natural kindergarten playgrounds and other modernization improvements that this project would have the effect of introducing.

Table 10: Capital Cost Comparison

Existing Schools	Code	5 Year	10 Year
Ascension CES	ASCN	\$ 3,033,265	\$ 3,350,702
St. Patrick CES	PATR	\$ 1,790,169	\$ 2,822,135
St. Raphael CES	RAPH	\$ 3,819,489	\$ 5,219,936
Total Burlington SE Review Area Cost (\$)		\$ 8,642,923	\$ 11,392,773
New Burlington Southeast QEW School	Capital	\$ 12,992,951	\$ 12,992,951
	Demo	\$375,320	\$375,320
	Renewal	\$-	\$-
Total Burlington Southeast QEW Cost (\$)		\$ 13,368,271	\$ 13,368,271

Figure 1: Capital Cost Comparison



2.3.3 Current vs. Proposed Operating Cost Savings

As part of this cost analysis, operating expenses include: maintenance costs, custodial costs, utilities (electric, gas, water), portable classroom costs, and transportation costs. Staffing cost considerations have not been included at this current time, but are anticipated to result in additional cost savings. Refer to Table 11 for a cost breakdown, and Figure 2 for an annual cost comparison.

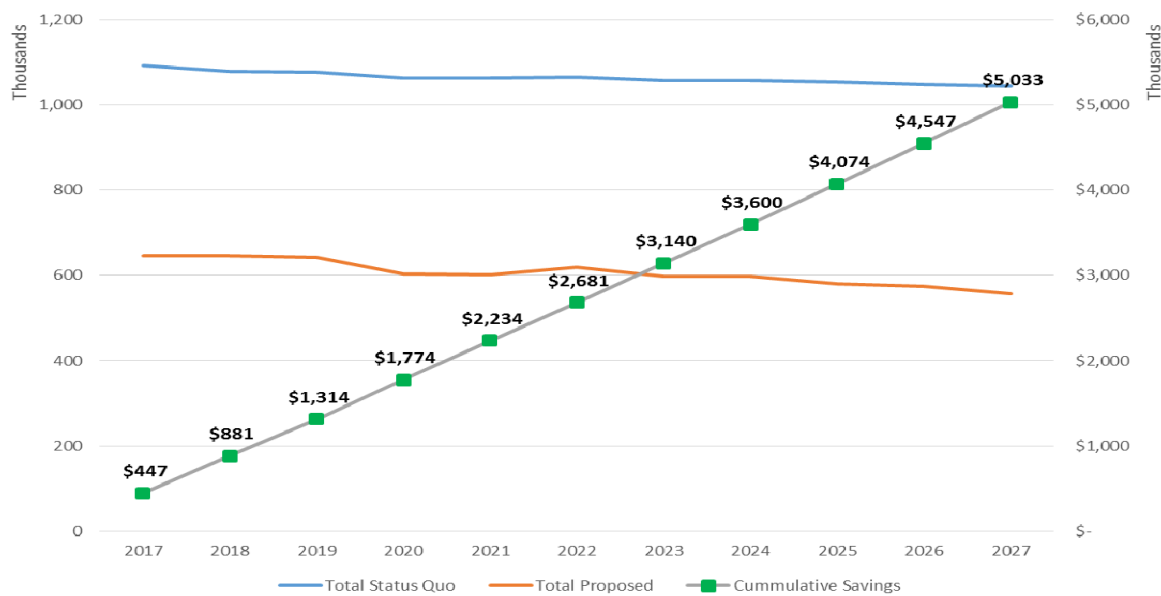
Currently, the annual operating expenditure for the three (3) existing schools is estimated at \$1,093,343. For the proposed solution of a consolidated school, operating expenditures were assumed to be comparable to the Board's most recent build, St. Benedict School. The proposed option's operating costs are estimated at \$646,135, a first year savings of

\$447,000, which increases to \$486,731 after a 10 year period once portable classroom needs decline. Over a 10 year period, this is anticipated to reach a cumulative savings in excess of \$5.0M.

Table 11: Annual Operational Cost Comparison

		2017	2022	2027
Status Quo	Operational Costs	\$784,343	\$784,343	\$784,343
	Transportation Costs	\$309,000	\$280,661	\$260,091
	Portable Classroom Costs	\$-	\$-	\$-
	Total Status Quo	\$1,093,343	\$1,065,004	\$1,044,434
Proposed Option	Operational Costs	\$318,135	\$318,135	\$318,135
	Transportation Costs	\$272,000	\$258,514	\$239,567
	Portable Classroom Costs	\$56,000	\$42,000	\$-
	Total Proposed Option	\$646,135	\$618,649	\$557,702
Annual Savings		\$447,208	\$446,355	\$486,731
Cumulative Savings		\$447,208	\$2,680,676	\$5,033,359

Figure 2: Annual Operational Cost Comparison



3.0 Consultation Process and Feedback Gathered

Staff acknowledged from the beginning that the process of school consolidations will have a significant impact on school communities. Thus, gathering as much community feedback as possible will help better inform staff of the community's needs, and provide trustees with a breadth of knowledge of the community's outlook on the proposal. The following subsection summarise the feedback gathered to date.

3.1 Notification Methods

Board staff have made every effort to ensure the community was adequately notified of the Board's approval of the Modified Pupil Accommodation Review process being undertaken in Southeast Burlington.

A summary of the communication process is as follows:

1. Board website updated on January 20, 2016 – Pupil Accommodation Review button placed prominently on the landing page of the website. Updates ongoing.
2. Email letters and FAQ sheet distributed to each parent and staff member in the impacted school communities on January 20, 2016. Follow up emails sent to parents on January 27th, February 17th, February 25th, and March 9th.
3. Copy of letter to staff and an FAQ sheet shared with Presidents of Unionized Employee Groups on January 20, 2016.
4. Letter sent via email to St. Patrick Parish Pastor and St. Raphael Parish Pastor on January 26, 2016.
5. Hardcopy letters hand-delivered on January 26, 2016 to neighbours and residents adjacent to and abutting the school communities.
6. Online discussion forum; Available from January 27, 2016
 - a. (www.muut.com/burlington-southeast-mpar)
7. Media Release – Distributed January 28, 2016
8. Letters sent to Regional Chair, Mayor of Burlington and Local Councillors, and Member of Provincial Parliament for Burlington on January 29, 2016.
9. Presentations to School Staff
 - a. (January 25, 2016 at St. Patrick CES, February 3, 2016 at Ascension CES, February 5, 2016 at St. Raphael CES)
10. Presentations to Catholic School Councils
 - a. (February 11, 2016 at St. Raphael CES, February 17, 2016 at St. Patrick CES, February 25, 2016 at Ascension CES)

11. An online survey; Available February 17 to March 11, 2016.
12. School newsletter/website message was provided to schools.
13. Community Consultation Meeting on March 8, 2016, at Assumption CSS
 - c. Parking Lot Questions
 - d. Transcribed Responses to Questions

3.2 Feedback Opportunities

A number of opportunities were provided for the community to provide their feedback on Staff's recommended proposal. This information was gathered and collated by staff, and attached as Appendix B to Appendix F. The following subsections summarize each opportunity provided to the community to comment on the proposal.

3.2.1 Parent Council / Staff Presentations

Staff met with St. Patrick, Ascension, and St. Raphael school staff on January 25, 2016, February 3, 2016, and February 5, 2016, respectively. Staff also visited the Parent Councils at St. Raphael's, St. Patrick's and Ascension Schools on February 11, February 17 and February 25, 2016 respectively.

A presentation was provided which offered an overview of why a Modified PAR was recommended and how staff arrived at the recommended option to consolidate into a proposed new school on the existing Ascension school site. Staff informed attendees about the next steps in the MPAR process.

3.2.2 Online Forum

An online forum has been active for parents and community members since January 27.

# of Registered Users	# of Active Users (Posted Comments)	Total # of Comments Posted
132	23	95

A total of 132 users registered on the forum. Many of the predominant themes from the forum have been echoed at the Community Consultation Meeting. A complete record of what has been posted on the forum is available in Appendix B.

3.2.3 Online Survey

Between the dates of February 17, 2016, to March 11, 2016, the Strategic Communications Department opened an online survey portal that contained the same three (3) questions that were to be presented at the Community Consultation Meeting on March 2, 2016.

A total of 123 survey responses were received from community members. Please refer to Appendix C for a preliminary analysis of the online survey results completed by the Research and Development Services department.

3.2.4 Community Consultation Meeting (CCM)

A Community Consultation Meeting was hosted on March 2, 2016 at Assumption CSS. Prior to the meeting 287 members of the community pre-registered to attend, 184 attended including 28 that had not pre-registered. This represents approximately 24% of the total population of school aged children attending the three affected schools. Table 12 below summarizes who attended the meeting, and which boundaries the attendees are geographically located – a map is provided of this information on Appendix L:

The format of the Community Consultation Meeting (CCM) started with staff providing parents and community members with an information session of the review process, the recommended option, and the concerns and feedback received to that point in time. The attendees were seated around tables in groups of up to ten (10) with one (1) staff or parent volunteer acting as a scribe. Three (3) questions were posed to the attendees (the same as the online survey), which included the following:

- 1) What do you like best about the proposed plan?
- 2) What challenges do you see with the proposed plan?
- 3) Do you have any suggestions to improve the proposed plan?

Table 12: Breakdown of Community Consultation Attendance

School Name	2015 Enrolment	Registered	Walk Ins	Attending Registrants	Did not Attend	TOTAL Attendance
Ascension CES	268	75	5	29	51	34
		28%	2%	11%	19%	13%
St. Patrick CES	248	97	8	58	47	66
		39%	3%	23%	19%	27%
St. Raphael CES	251	80	8	43	45	51
		32%	3%	17%	18%	20%
Out of Bounds	NA	35	7	26	9	33
TOTAL	767	287	28	156	152	184
		37%	4%	20%	20%	24%

Each attendee at the table had an opportunity to respond to each question, and had their response recorded by the scribe. The results of the table discussions were compiled and are attached as Appendix D.

Although there was no open question session, during the breakout session, staff were available to address any comments and concerns in a small group setting. Additional questions from the community were collected on large pads of paper, for all to see, and for parents to record their questions and receive a formal response from staff. Once reviewed, staff compiled the answers to the question and posted them on the Board website. These questions are referred to as 'Parking Lot Questions', and are included in Appendix E.

3.2.5 Other Communications

Further to the above detailed consultation, additional correspondence was received in hardcopy and via email, offering feedback on the proposed recommendation. This feedback has been provided in Appendix F.

4.0 Transition Planning Overview

If the Board of Trustees approves staff's recommendation or part thereof it is required under Administrative Procedure VI-35: School Accommodation Review – Closure/Consolidation, that a Transition Committee be established.

The accommodation transition may undertake the following process after final approval from the Board and the Ministry is received and funding is granted to proceed with the project:

- Re-locate all Ascension School students to St. Patrick School until the construction of the new facility is completed – portable classrooms will be required;
- All students that will be enrolled at St. Raphael School will remain at their school until construction of the new Burlington Southeast QEW School is completed;
- Upon completion of a new school facility on the current Ascension School site, all students within the accommodation review area will be relocated to the new school; and,
- St. Patrick School and St. Raphael School facilities will both close and one will become the home of the Burlington Thomas Merton Adult Learning Centre (currently leased commercial space), and the other will be retained as a Board land holding until further notice.

A Transition Committee is only undertaken in the event that the Board of Trustees approves the recommended option and that Ministry Funding is approved and made available. In absence of these approvals, no change occurs.

Considerations of the Transition Committee could also include but not be limited to;

- Moving Logistics
- Home/School/Parish connections
- Transition of students
- School Organization
- School Name
- School Logo
- School Uniforms
- School Finances and Purchases
- School Closing Events
- School Community Introductions and Transition Activities
- Memorabilia, Art, Photographs and other school history
- Transition of Technology (iPads, laptops, smartboards)

Staff believes the recommended option will minimize the negative impacts for students and families. Dividing school communities is avoided in this option. Furthermore, this proposal

includes a significant investment in the area, providing students and teachers with a state of the art teaching and learning facility.

5.0 Final Recommendation Option

In the Initial Staff Report presented to the Board of Trustees on January 19, 2016, for the **Burlington Southeast QEW** accommodation review area, only one (1) option was recommended by staff. This option, which consolidates three (3) existing elementary schools into one new build has been reviewed by a third party consultant, Watson and Associates, and confirmed the declining enrolment trends as well as the viability of the proposed school consolidation project. Furthermore, where feasible, modifications were made to the accommodation plan based on community feedback. The following subsections summarize staff's final recommendation to the Board.

5.1 Accommodation Plan

Based on community feedback and the needs of students, staff recommends that the following actions be taken within the **Burlington Southeast QEW** accommodation review area:

- 1) Demolish the existing Ascension School, and construct a **648 pupil place elementary** school with an **88 place child care facility** on the existing site for the 2017-2018 school year, using a 21st Century Learning model;
- 2) Close both St. Patrick School and St. Raphael School existing facilities, and re-direct the entire student populations to the newly constructed Burlington Southeast CES wherein all attendance boundaries are incorporated into one amalgamated school attendance boundary – see Appendix H for proposed attendance boundary;
- 3) Re-direct all existing Board programs offered at the three (3) affected schools to the new Burlington Southeast School;
- 4) Re-locate the existing Burlington Thomas Merton Adult Learning Centre (currently leased commercial space) into St. Patrick School or St. Raphael School; and,
- 5) If no interest is declared through the Board exploring options for public/community organizations to take over the surplus school facility, Board approval would be sought to dispose of the remaining surplus school facility through the Ontario Regulation 444/98 disposition process.

It should be noted that a number of comments were received as per the ultimate location of the newly constructed school, and the value of having an integrated child care centre with the Region. Staff maintains that the location is still optimal, and that the possible introduction of an 88 place child care centre would be an asset to the Board and surrounding community.

Table 13 and Figure 3 illustrate the enrolment projections of the proposed Burlington Southeast School project. It is important to note that depending on the school's classroom organization, portable classrooms are projected to be required in the first years of the proposed new school's opening. The need for portable classrooms during the early years of a new school's opening typical of any new build as the intent is to construct for long term enrolment needs and prevent construction of space that will be empty in the long term. Given the small number of portable classrooms expected to be required, families should not expect their children to be in portable classrooms for several consecutive years.

Table 13: Projection – Proposed Burlington SE CES, Ascension CES Site

School Name	FBC	Opening	5 year projection					10 year projection				
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Proposed Burlington SE CES (Rebuilt Facility)	648	733	723	691	685	697	679	678	669	653	646	639
		113%	112%	107%	106%	108%	105%	105%	103%	101%	100%	99%
Head Count	648	733	723	691	685	697	679	678	669	653	646	639
Utilization (%)		113%	112%	107%	106%	108%	105%	105%	103%	101%	100%	99%
Surplus Space (+,-)		-85	-75	-43	-37	-49	-31	-30	-21	-5	2	9

Figure 3: Projection – Burlington SE Catholic Elementary School Rebuild Recommendation

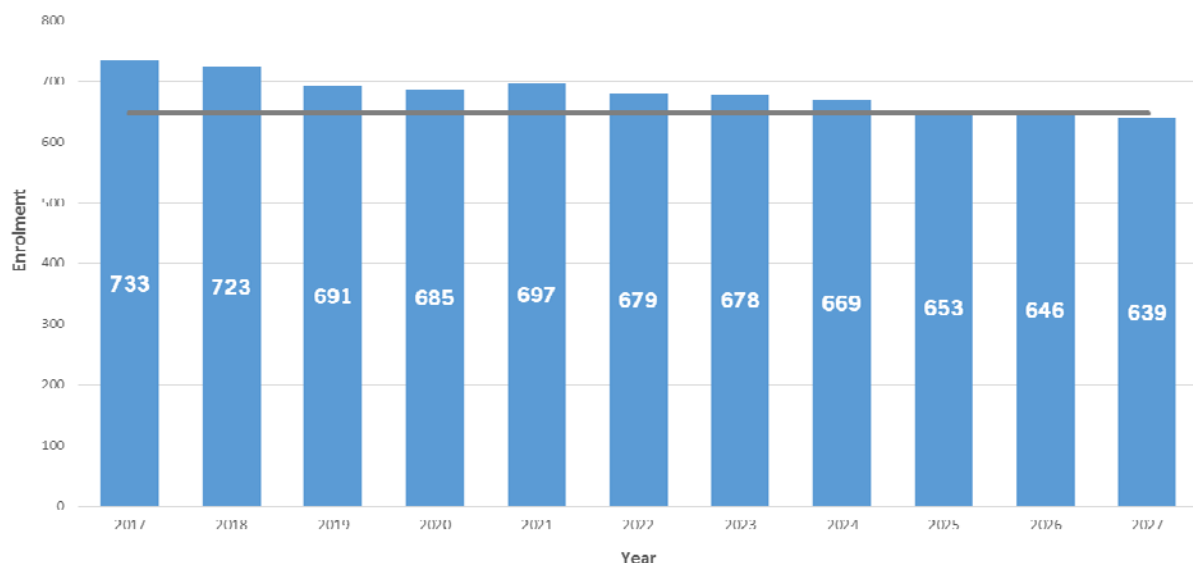


Table 14 below summarizes the evaluation of the Proposed School Consolidation option based on the staff defined criteria (introduced in Table 1 of the Initial Staff Report) to measure the viability of the proposed accommodation plan.

Table 14: Projection – Proposed Burlington SE CES, Ascension CES Site

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED BURLINGTON SE QEW CES (NEW BUILD)	(✓)
Facility Utilization between 90-125%	The optimal utilization for a school facility is between 90-125% to ensure that operational funding (both staffing and facility) is maximized on a by pupil basis. Situations where utilization is above 100% are often introduced to ensure that the Board does not build at peak enrolment, and instead at a sustainable enrolment level.	Yes, facility utilization remains above 90% and below 125% over a 10 year horizon.	(✓)
500-671 FBC/OTG	Based on previous experiences at the Board, and following Ministry Benchmarks defined by the Expert Panel (for school design), the optimal size for a facility's Functional Building Capacity (FBC) is between 500-671 pupil places for the Board. This ensures that a wide range of program, staff, special needs, and extra-curricular options are available to the students.	Yes, 648	(✓)
Portable Needs	Boards will often install portable classrooms at schools as a temporary accommodation solution in situations where peak student enrolment surpasses the built capacity. Portable classrooms are therefore used in situations to avoid overbuilding.	Yes, at peak 3 portables will be required on site, and will no longer be needed after 10 years.	(✓)
Accessibility	Review accessibility constraints on site and within the facility to ensure that equal access for all students and potential community partners is provided.	Yes, will meet current AODA guidelines and be fully accessible.	(✓)
Transportation Times	As per Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS) Operating Procedure HS-3-004 – Duration of Trip, wherever feasible bus trips shall not exceed 60 minutes for the elementary panel, and 75 minutes for the secondary panel. <i>Note: the 60 minute maximum is intended to address rural areas where distance is a factor. In-town routes are anticipated to be comparable to the average transportation time of 14 minutes for the regular track Program.</i>	Students are expected to be transported in between 15-25 minutes.	(✓)
Average Distance to School	Consists of an average distance between student households to school accommodations, whereby lower averages typically represent a more centralized location.	2.24 kilometers – Maximum 4.28 kilometers	(✓)

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED BURLINGTON SE QEW CES (NEW BUILD)	(✓)
Site Size (Approx. 5+ acres)	In order to provide for adequate play space, parking facilities, pick up/drop off, bus loops, and other necessary exterior accommodations, a school site of five (5) or more acres is adequate.	Preferred Size, 5.75 acres	(✓)
Adjacent Uses	Have consideration for adjacent uses, where some uses are more sympathetic to a school's daily operations than other (i.e. park spaces vs. commercial plaza strips).	Residential; Public Secondary School; Community Centre	(✓)
Site Limitation(s)	Any additional factors that are unique to each school.	N/A	
Community Use	Where feasible, look to collaborative builds with Board approved community partners, as identified in Operating Procedure VI-78: Community Planning and Facility Partnerships	Yes, creation of an 88 place 5 (five) room child care centre, with community space included –co-build opportunity with Halton Region	(✓)
Reduction in Pupil Places	With the phase out of “top up funding”, does the proposal have the effect of eliminating excess pupil places?	470 pupil places removed over 10 years	(✓)
Renewal Cost Avoidance	How much Capital Resources does the project have the effect of avoiding in renewal costs.	\$8.64M - \$11.4M between a 5 – 10 year range	(✓)
Reduction of Yearly Operational Costs	How much Operational Savings are available with the proposal?	Approximately \$447,000 per year, and approximately \$5.0M over a 10 year period.	(✓)



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southeast QEW School Project**

APPENDIX A

Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

Monday, January 18, 2016

- ☒ Principals impacted by MPARs take part in a teleconference about the MPAR report and potential implications for their school communities.

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

- ☒ Principals impacted by MPARs notified that the Board of Trustees have approved to move ahead with the Modified Pupil Accommodation Review (MPAR) Process.

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

- ☒ Website updated, with a dedicated page for each area under review: North Georgetown; Southeast Burlington; Southwest Burlington; South Oakville.
- ☒ Principals impacted by the MPARs receive key messages and FAQ to respond to parent and staff concerns.
- ☒ Letter template and FAQ for parents and staff **sent to each of the 10 Principals impacted by the MPAR for distribution to their parents and staff.**
- ☒ FAQ sheet and Principal's letter to staff shared with the Presidents of the Board's unionized employee groups.
- ☒ **School Staff Meetings** set up, as follows:
 - Monday, January 25 at 3:30 p.m. – St. Patrick
 - Wednesday, January 27 at 3:30 p.m. – St. James
 - Thursday, January 28 at 3:00 p.m. – Holy Cross
 - Monday, February 1 at 4:00 p.m. – St. Joseph
 - Tuesday, February 2 at 3:00 p.m. – St. John
 - Wednesday, February 3 at 4:00 p.m. - Ascension
 - Thursday, February 4 at 3:10 p.m. – St. Dominic
 - Thursday, February 4 at 3:30 p.m. – St. Paul
 - Friday, February 5 at 9:00 a.m. – St. Raphael
 - Wednesday, February 10 at 4:00 p.m. – St. Francis
- ☒ **Meetings with Catholic School Councils** set up as follows:
 - Wednesday, February 3, 2016 - Holy Cross
 - Thursday, February 4, 2016 – St. James
 - Monday, February 8, 2016 – St. Paul

Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

- Thursday, February 11, 2016 – St. Raphael
- Wednesday, February 17, 2016 – St. Patrick
- Thursday, February 18, 2016 – St. Joseph
- Monday, February 22, 2016 – St. Francis of Assis
- Tuesday, February 23, 2016 – St. Dominic
- Thursday, February 25, 2016 - Ascension
- Monday, February 29, 2016 – St. John
- ☑ **Community Consultation Meetings** set up, as follows:
 - **Wednesday, March 2, 2016** at 7:00 p.m. at Assumption CSS – [Southeast Burlington](#)
 - **Thursday, March 3, 2016** at 7:00 p.m. at Christ the King CSS – [North Georgetown](#)
 - **Monday, March 7, 2016** at 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas CSS – [South Oakville](#)
 - **Tuesday, March 8, 2016** at 7:00 pm. At Assumption CSS – [Southwest Burlington](#)

Friday, January 22, 2016

- ☑ **Information packages sent in hardcopy and via email to the following:** Clerks
Departments at the 3 municipalities and the Region of Halton; coterminous boards; Ministry of Education

Monday, January 25, 2016

- ☑ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Patrick

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

- ☑ **Community Updates** hand-delivered to the neighbouring residents adjacent to the schools under review.
- ☑ An **email sent to parishes impacted by the MPARs**, to share information and request a time to meet.
- ☑ Meetings with the Pastors at parishes that are adjacent to school sites were set up as follows:
 - Thursday, January 28, 2016 –Msgr. Modeski, St. Patrick Parish
 - Tuesday, February 9, 2016 –Fr. Anderson, St. Dominic and Fr. Lensson, St. James
 - Friday, February 12, 2016 – Fr. Sims, St. John the Baptist
 - Wednesday, February 17, 2016 – Fr. Wagner, St. Raphael

Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

- ☑ **Online discussion forums created** for each of the four review areas.
- ☑ **Email invitation sent to Principals, and asked to share with all staff** - to attend Consultation Meetings and to share concerns on online forums.
- ☑ **Follow-up letter sent to all parents** (from Principals) in review areas – **inviting them to attend Consultation Meetings** and to **share concerns on online forums**. This information provided as information to Principals.
 - **Email** to all Ascension, St. Patrick and St. Raphael parents through the parent notification system to invite them to Consultation Meeting to take place on March 2nd.
 - **Email** to all Holy Cross and St. Francis parents through the parent notification system to invite them to Consultation Meeting to take place on March 3rd.
 - **Email** to all St. Dominic, St. James and St. Joseph through the parent notification system to invite them to Consultation Meeting to take place on March 7th.
 - **Email** to all St. John and St. Paul parents through the parent notification system to invite them to Consultation Meeting to take place on March 8th.
- ☑ **School Staff Meeting** at St. James.

Thursday, January 28, 2016

- ☑ A letter sent from School SO to Catholic School Councils in 10 impacted schools to invite them to an information session.
- ☑ **News release** to our media contacts, which includes the date of the Community Consultation Meetings, as well as links to the Board's website for more information and to register to attend.
- ☑ The information about the MPAR Consultation Meetings **posted on the front page of our website** in the **sliding news**.
- ☑ A letter sent via email to the Mayors of Burlington, Halton Hills and Oakville.
- ☑ A letter sent via email to the local councillors in the communities impacted by the MPARs.
- ☑ A letter sent via email to the local MPPs in the communities impacted by the MPARs.
- ☑ A letter sent via email to the Regional Chair.
- ☑ **News Release sent out** about Community Consultation Meetings scheduled in March.
- ☑ A **schedule of tweets and posts set up** to communicate the information about the Community Consultation Meetings through our social media channels.
- ☑ **School Staff Meeting** at Holy Cross.
- ☑ Meeting with Msgr. Modeski, St. Patrick Parish.

Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

Monday, February 1, 2016

- ☒ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Joseph.
- ☒ **Presentation to CPIC.**

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

- ☒ **School Staff Meeting** at St. John.

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

- ☐ **School Staff Meeting** at Ascension.
- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at Holy Cross.

Thursday, February 4, 2016

- ☐ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Dominic.
- ☐ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Paul.
- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. James.

Friday, February 5, 2016

- ☐ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Raphael.

Monday, February 8, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Paul.

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

- ☐ Meeting with Fr. Anderson, St. Dominic Parish and Fr. Lensson, St. James Parish.

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

- ☐ Meeting with Jim Long, Episcopal Director, Diocese of Hamilton.
- ☐ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Francis of Assisi.

Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

Thursday, February 11, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Raphael.

Friday, February 12, 2016

- ☐ Meeting with Fr. Sims, St. John the Baptist Parish.

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Raphael.
- ☐ Meeting with Fr. Wagner, St. Raphael Parish.

Thursday, February 18, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Joseph.

Monday, February 22, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Francis of Assisi.

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Dominic.

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

- ☐ **Online survey posted.**
- ☐ **Reminder** message (one week in advance) sent to Ascension, St. Patrick and St. Raphael parents about Consultation Meeting, **as well as to offer an opportunity to those who do not plan to attend the Consultation Meeting to provide their feedback through an online survey.**
- ☐ **Reminder** also communicated through **Twitter and Facebook.**
- ☐ **A message sent to all schools for their school newsletters/websites.**

Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

- ☐ A follow-up **email to be sent to parishes** for consideration in sharing the information about consultation meeting with their parish community. Prepared **announcement/bulletin message** provided.

Thursday, February 25, 2016

- ☐ **Reminder** message (one week in advance) to Holy Cross and St. Francis parents about Consultation Meeting.
- ☐ **Reminder** also communicated through **Twitter and Facebook**.
- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at Ascension.

Monday, February 29, 2016

- ☐ **Reminder** message (one week in advance) to St. Dominic, St. James, and St. Joseph parents about Consultation Meeting.
- ☐ **Reminder** also communicated through **Twitter and Facebook**.
- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. John.

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

- ☐ **Reminder** message (one week in advance) to St. John and St. Paul parents about Consultation Meeting.
- ☐ **Reminder** also communicated through **Twitter and Facebook**.

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

- ☐ **Community Consultation Meeting** for **Southeast Burlington** – 7:00 p.m. at Assumption CSS.

Thursday, March 3, 2016

- ☐ **Follow-up email** to all Ascension, St. Patrick and St. Raphael parents to thank those who attended the Community Consultation, and to remind those who did not attend of the opportunity to provide their **feedback through an online survey**.
- ☐ This information also **communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.
- ☐ **Community Consultation Meeting** for **North Georgetown** – 7:00 p.m. at Christ the King CSS.

Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

Friday, March 4, 2016

- ☐ **Follow-up email** to all Holy Cross and St. Francis parents to thank those who attended the Community Consultation, and to offer an opportunity to those who did not to provide their **feedback through an online survey**.
- ☐ This information also **communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.

Monday, March 7, 2016

- ☐ **Community Consultation Meeting** for **South Oakville** – 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas CSS.

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

- ☐ **Follow-up email** to all St. Dominic, St. James and St. Joseph parents to thank those who attended the Community Consultation, and to remind those who did not attend of the opportunity to provide their **feedback through an online survey**.
- ☐ This information also **communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.
- ☐ **Community Consultation Meeting** for **Southwest Burlington** – 7:00 p.m. at Assumption CSS.

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

- ☐ **Follow-up email** to all St. John and St. Paul parents to thank those who attended the Community Consultation, and to remind those who did not attend of the opportunity to provide their **feedback through an online survey**.
- ☐ This information also **communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.
- ☐ **Reminder email** to all parents to **participate in the online survey** before it closes on Wednesday, March 11, 2016.
- ☐ Reminder **also communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.

Friday, March 11, 2016

- ☐ Reminder **also communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.

Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

Friday, March 18, 2016

- ☐ **Email to all elementary parents** to thank them for their participation in the process, and to **let to let them know that the report has been posted** on the Board's website. The email will also note that the report will be presented to Trustees at the April 5, 2016 Board Meeting, and **review the process and timelines for delegations.**
- ☐ This information **communicated through Twitter and Facebook.**

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

- ☐ **Special Board Meeting** – final report and recommendations presented to Board of Trustees

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

- ☐ **Regular Board Meeting** – delegations received.

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

- ☐ **Regular Board Meeting** – final decision by the Board of Trustees.

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

- ☐ **Email** from School Superintendent to **10 Principals in impacted school communities to notify them about the decision of the Board on the final recommendations.**
- ☐ **A letter sent home to all parents** from School Superintendent to let them know about the decision of the Board.
- ☐ This information **also communicated through Twitter and Facebook.**



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southeast QEW School Project**

APPENDIX B



APPENDIX B



MY FEED

ALL POSTS

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Please check your email to verify your account.

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Start a new topic...

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21d in General Discussion – Burlington
Southeast PAR 7 1

Proposal

We have no issue with the proposal. We are looking for information about busing and uniforms. Our child has already been impacted in boundary reviews in our prior city. Kids adjust and a larger school does not mean they are lost in the shuffle. Good teachers from all of the schools will be required. Moving to a larger school does not automatically mean the quality of education is impacted. Modern amenities aid learning. Merging schools also helps kids meet more kids in the community. This helps when they move to high school.

CHANNELS

General Discussion – Burlington Southeast PAR

Ascension Catholic Elementary School

St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School

St. Raphael Catholic Elementary School

ONLINE



HCDSB-PAR Admin 12d 1

Thanks for sharing your feedback. Busing and transportation eligibility will be determined in consultation with Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS) if this proposal moves forward. The HSTS Operating Procedure states that elementary students that live more than 1.6 kilometers from their school are eligible for transportation.

If this proposal is approved, we would look at a number of factors to help with the transition, including the school uniform. We understand that buying uniforms is costly, and we will find ways to help families through the transition period. This would include phasing in the new uniform by allowing students to continue to wear their old uniform top (the pants are identical in all elementary schools) until the child outgrows it, and until new uniform pieces can be acquired over time. There would be a 1-2 year transition period for any consolidation of schools with uniforms.



11d 3

What has been said about the uniforms is in direct violation the the board's published uniform policy – I am not allowed to hand down uniform pieces and uniform exchanges become pointless – also as my school was up for a uniform vote next year what happens if we merge what happens to the uniform vote – also HSTS is already raising capacity concerns and if indeed they can do fulfill the

announcement is made.
request



11d 1

How about – instead of a 2 year transition period – where there would be a complete mess of students in uniform, not in uniform, wearing different uniforms – why not have the Board set aside \$250 per student moving to the new school (sorry – working on the assumption that there will be a new school) and provide that as an in-store credit at McCarthy's to that ALL families can access uniforms right out of the gate? Based on 650 students, that would cost the board \$162,500.

As the Board would be saving roughly \$10 million in maintenance costs as a result of amalgamating the three schools, this should seem like a bargain and would go a long way to help invest in community building at the new school. It will be bad enough if you're a St. Raphael's student going to the new school, in your old uniform, not having had the prior year to bond with possible new classmates (seeing as Ascension and St. Patrick's would have had a 1-year head start). Just a thought.



11d

Thank you for answering our questions regarding busing and the uniform. Hopefully other parents will find the info useful. As these are 2 of the hot button items aside from the location of the proposed final school it would be helpful to have final decisions on how they will be provisioned when the final

announcement is made.

announcement is made.

We are less than thrilled with having to purchase additional uniform items as we will have a student in grade 8 in September. Are there any considerations for senior students who are impacted so close to graduation?



4d 1

Why did the administrator only reply to the parent that supports their proposal? Why are they completely avoiding dialogue with parents that have questions and concerns?



4d 1

We will not be purchasing any new uniform pieces and will ignore any school direction on the uniforms until we are ready to replace our uniform pieces



3d

Same here

Reply...



4d in General Discussion – Burlington Southeast PAR 2

Had the Bishop been consulted that St. Raphael's will have no parish school

parish school

4d  1

With our 1st communions and confirmations what are the plans as this impacts the future of St. Raphael's church



3d

Same as St. Patrick's

Reply...



9d in St. Raphael Catholic Elementary School  1  3

Serious Problems with Accommodation Review

On Wednesday, March 3, 2016, the Board held a meeting at Assumption High School, which was characterized as a "public consultation of the stakeholders," but no actual consultation took place. Instead, a detailed plan was presented for the construction of a new super-school on the site of Ascension elementary school, which would absorb the students currently attending St. Raphael, St. Patrick, and St. Paul schools. It was claimed that the Ascension site is the most "feasible" for the consolidation. Several justifications for and supposed benefits of the new school were offered by the Board:

1. Schools in in our district have been experiencing declining student enrolment over the last several years and according to the Board, "this decline is forecasted to continue" at least until 2025, but no details were given as to how the numbers were projected. If one looks at the current trend in the area, it is evident that older are residents are moving out and younger ones are moving in, a trend which Councillor Jack Dennison also noted in the Thursday, March 3 edition of the Burlington Post (<http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/.../launch.aspx...>).

2. The Board is trying to take advantage of funding available from the ministry of education for consolidation projects. Its consolidation plan entails shutting down three schools that are adjacent to churches. In a document entitled "168 Years of Success: Ontario's Catholic Schools" (<http://www.hcdsb.org/.../ntarioCatholicSchools.pdf>), Paula Dawson, Director of the Halton Catholic District School Board, states: "In recent years there has been growing discussion around the funding of faith-based education. Despite its long-standing history of academic excellence and contributions to Ontario society, the funding of Catholic education has been drawn into this debate. The 2007 Ontario election campaign was a particular focal point, in some areas reinvigorating the efforts of interest groups that want to end public funding for Catholic schools in Ontario. . . . It is important to be vigilant and to refute these renewed attacks."

In light of these remarks, we must all ask ourselves where is the vigilance in taking school communities away from their parishes? Mass celebrated in a school gymnasium is not the same as Mass celebrated in the church. Is a modern school building more important than proximity to our centres of worship – the reason that a separate Catholic education system even exists at all?

Under the planned consolidation many more children will require transportation that they do not currently need, and there are safety issues associated with locating the new school on a busy artery like New Street. Many ratepayers who want a school within walking distance of their homes have publicly stated that they will remove their children and their tax dollars from the Catholic system. Thus begins the demise of Catholic education in Ontario.

It is a very poor vigilance to call for the refutation of those who wish to dismantle the Catholic education system while establishing the very circumstances in which such dismantling is most easily and quietly accomplished.

3. The Board wants to provide a “21st century learning experience” to students without being overly specific about what that means and why it cannot be accomplished within existing buildings. If a “21st century learning experience” entails technology such as computers, wi-fi, and Smartboards, there is actually nothing to prevent the installation of the necessary equipment in existing schools. Indeed, some classrooms in St. Raphael school already have

smartboards, classrooms have ipads which means there is w-fi available, and there is a functioning computer lab.

Mention was made of features like music and science rooms and a library. However, it was never explicitly indicated that the music and science rooms would be dedicated rooms with appropriate staff and equipment. Many schools in the Board have “science” and “music” rooms which are in fact used as regular intermediate classrooms. Primary and junior students never get to use these rooms for their intended purpose.

The Board’s first “Consultation” on March 2 did not allow any opportunity for parents to pose questions or to suggest alternatives to the Board’s consolidation plan, such as renovating existing schools, or offering French Immersion to fill up empty spaces. It is abundantly clear that the Board has already made a decision to consolidate schools since it already has building permits and only invited input on three questions which they provided—all of them centred on the Board’s proposal, none asking for alternatives. When attempts were made by parents to raise questions or offer suggestions, they were flatly ignored. Indeed, they were warned beforehand that the questions would not be accepted from the floor. How exactly is this a consultation? Even people not directly involved can see the hypocrisy of using this term to describe what went on at the meeting. When Kathy Yanchus reported on the meeting in the March 4, 2016 edition of the Burlington Post ([edition.pagesuite-](#)

professional.co.uk/.../launch.aspx...), she made the decision to describe it as a 'consultation' (within single quotation marks). If she had believed it to be a true consultation the quotation marks would have been omitted.

The Board attempted to completely control the meeting not only by refusing to answer questions—even when they were shouted out by concerned parents—but by the very arrangement of the room. Instead of rows of seating as one might expect in a true consultation, attendees were divided into groups of ten seated around tables. This had the dual effect of breaking up larger groups that might have had a stronger collective will to openly challenge the claims from the podium and to emphasize authority of the Board. Parents were cast as children in the role of students at their desks, there to learn from the educators. Just to be on the safe side, the Board also had members patrolling the rows between the desks to keep the more vocal parents in check.

Unfortunately, the Halton District School Board has a history of highhanded behaviour towards parents at St. Raphael and no doubt other schools. When uniforms were first proposed for St. Raphael in 2010 the vote did not pass, but when the proposal was revisited in 2014 the number for a quorum was reduced so that it would pass.

Setting aside the strong impression of contempt created by all of this, it should be a cause of real concern for anyone (inside our outside of the Catholic education system) who believes in

democratic processes and the idea that elected officials, like School Trustees, should represent the will of the people who elected them and not dictate to them once they are in office. If it is acceptable for school boards to simply change the rules and silence opposition in order to achieve their own goals, why not others? One day more than a few schools could be at stake. This is a very dangerous road for all of us to go down. Even ignoring the danger, we must ask ourselves how the actions of the Halton Catholic School Board can be squared with its stated aim of pursuing "education based on the true model of moral character, Jesus Christ. By inculcating gospel values into all of our pursuits, we work for the highest ideal of human character." (schools.hcdsb.org/.../FocusOnFaith.aspx)



7d

Our perspective from feedback recently released by HCDSB from meetings held last week: We thought some of the answers were very specifically answered and some were not. What stood out in the feedback to us is that HCDSB specifically indicated that: 1/ The Diocese of Hamilton, and 2/ The City of Burlington, have both indicated they are unable (unwilling) to work with HCDSB to find IDEAL land space for a new school. This is of great concern for numerous reasons on all levels for: 1/ The future of Burlington's South-end Community (City of Burlington's appeal to families—or not), 2/ The relationship and partnership of The Catholic Church with HCDSB and its impact on our communities and

schools.

Reply...



HCDSB-PAR Admin 7w in **St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School** 43

Burlington Southeast QEW Pupil Accommodation Review (St. Patrick)

On January 19, 2016, the Board approved the initiation of the Burlington Southeast QEW Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR), as it relates to the following schools:

Ascension Catholic Elementary School

St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School

St. Raphael Catholic Elementary School

For more information about the PAR process, please visit our website: (bit.ly/BurlingtonSoutheast-PAR)

Parents and members of the community can share their opinions and provide their comments below, and are also welcome to attend the **Community Consultation Meeting**, which will take place on: Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at Assumption Catholic Secondary School, at 7:00 p.m.

[Register for the Consultation Meeting here:] ([✗](https://survey.hcdsb.org/2016MPAR.aspx))



6w 4

I am not opposed to the amalgamation of the 3 schools, but much prefer the St. Patrick location which is on a less busy street, nestled amongst trees, between a Catholic Church and park. It's a wonderful ideal location for children.



HCDSB-PAR Admin 6w

Thanks for your feedback. Staff have looked at all the options, and the Ascension site provides the best feasibility. It is larger than the St. Patrick site (5.75 acres as opposed to 4.0 acres) and will be able to hold a two-storey building that can accommodate 648 students. The proposed school design will use a 21st Century Learning model, with an outdoor play area and adequate space for parking and a bus loading area. For more information, feel free to join us at our Community Consultation Meeting on Wednesday, March 2. Register here: ([✗](https://survey.hcdsb.org/2016MPAR.aspx)) survey.hcdsb.org/2016MPAR.aspx



6w 6

I understand however parents should understand what is feasible on the st. Patrick site and have the opportunity to choose an option next to a catholic church. HCDSB risks losing children to public schools in more appropriate settings for children. I will not be sending my child to New st. bottom line, when today she attends school in an ideal setting. A family on my street has avoided enrolment at St.

Patrick for 2016 due to the risk of the school being on New st., and I'm sure there will be others.



5w 5

I strongly agree with the above statement. I spoke with a mother the other day, who's daughter attends St. Patrick school also. She informed me that she has already made arrangements for her daughter to attend the public school in the area next year, because she strongly disagrees with the direction the School board is taking with St. Patrick. It has been argued that the acreage of the proposed site would allow for a mega school with a 2 storey building that accommodates 648 students. When did bigger become more important than safer, community based and closer to a parish we attend as young catholic families? The sense of connectedness in a smaller, community based school is not only felt and shared among students, it's shared among staff and parents. It's described that this new school will offer more program choices and opportunities, in my opinion, this is a flawed way to view what "choice" really means to the families of St. Patrick School.



HCDSB-PAR Admin 5w

Thank you for your input. Your feedback is important to us and we will be sharing all of the comments on this online forum with Trustees before a decision has been reached.

You can continue to share your thoughts, questions and concerns on this forum, and there will be other

opportunities to do so at the Community Consultation Meeting on March 2nd (X) survey.hcdsb.org/2016MPAR.aspx and through an online survey, offered in February.



5w

Great, when and how will we receive the survey and what's the purpose?



28d 5

I agree with the previous comments and would like to note that while I understand the board's need to amalgamate three schools due to the projected lower enrollment, the proposed site for the new school on the New Street seems to be driven by its size only and does not take into consideration any other aspects of the area. In my opinion, St. Patrick School, despite its lower acreage, would represent a much better option due to its setting in the residential area, adjacent position to St Patrick Catholic Church and parks as well as a much safer environment for the elementary school students. Although the school's lot size is lower than the preferred size as per your guidelines, I would think that there is a significant number of schools that are operating on a much smaller lots and that these numbers are readily available to you. It also seems to me that two stories building could be accommodated on either of the lots as it will be built up and not spread out. In addition, retention of the school on St. Patrick site would ensure continues close relationship between the school and the church, which will not be the case for the New Street

location.

Please note that New Street is an extremely busy street and the relocation of the schools to that site would only add to the congestion. While you propose the bus loop for students drop off and pick up, higher number of parents would now need to drive their kids to school and the drop off and pick up for them would be significantly more difficult. I understand that the school is located beside the public high school, and I do see a lot of high school students walking to the school every day, please remember that these are elementary school kids and I would feel very unsafe for my son to be in that very high traffic area.

As a last note, I understand that at the end, the decision will be based on the numbers and on what would be the best option for the board. As mentioned in the review, you are planning on disposing of the St. Patrick site. It also says that both New street site and St. Patrick site are currently zoned as residential. However, I would think that New Street site could be converted to commercial zoning, if needed, and I would think that the school board would be able to raise significantly higher funds from the sale of that site vs St. Patrick site.



HCDSB-PAR Admin 27d

Parents of students attending schools that are in the areas under review were sent an email today – outlining 4 ways to provide feedback. The **online feedback survey** will be open until March 11th. and

will allow parents and members of the community to share their input. Here is access to the online feedback survey: ✕
survey.hcdsb.org//PARFeedback.aspx

All feedback collected from this discussion forum, the online feedback survey, community consultation meeting and the delegation(s) on April 5th will be shared with Trustees before they reach a final decision on April 19th.

At this time, no decision has been made. We'd like to thank everyone for their participation and for sharing their feedback.



27d

I didn't receive the email yet. Is it being shared directly or through the school? Also those in the community should receive the email as well. How will they be notified?



27d ❤️ 4

I would like to know more about the enrollment assumptions that accommodation review is based on. In the review it states that the area has been classified as a maturing neighbourhood as the enrollment has been decreasing over the last five years. I believe this assumption was also used in the 2013 Long Term capital plan, which I think introduced the idea of school review. However, the area demographics changed a lot over the last couple of years as more and more original owners are selling their houses and younger families with

kids are moving in. This can be witnessed by the JK+SK enrollment in the school, where there are 35 JKs and the combined two classes account for ~ 25% of the total school population. The proposed new school that would require portables right from the beginning is very concerning. To say that they will be needed for only 10 years reads to me that my child will be going to school with the usage of portables for the duration of his whole elementary school term. In addition, based on my observations of the current neighbourhood dynamics, I would not be surprised to see that even bigger than projected number of portables would be required for that new school.



HCDSB-PAR Admin 26d

An email about how to provide feedback on the proposed plan was sent to parents from the affected schools. We would suggest contacting your school directly or emailing us at:

communications@hcdsb.org for verification. All of the information and ways to submit your feedback is available on our website for parents and members of the community: [4 Ways To Tell Us What You Think](#)



25d 4

Has any sort of communication been sent out to all residences in the areas affected by this proposed change? I have yet to see anything in my mailbox and fear that only those with connections to the school are providing input. As a resident next to or

near one of the schools in question I feel they too should have a say in what happens in their neighbourhood. Closing schools, building bigger ones or selling property near residences will also affect people who do not have children in the education system and they should have a say and be informed on decisions being made.



25d 4

Health & Safety for our kids ! As a parent of a four year old daughter, I am concerned about her safety crossing New Street as per the proposed plan. Currently she can safely ride her bike or walk to St. Patrick – that was one of the main reasons we moved to Burlington and selected this school. Hearing about the number of portables concerns me because of the unknown factors around heating, cooling and washroom facilities.



24d 5

It is my opinion that the Health and Safety of my child is greatly being undervalued with this proposed plan. Under this new plan, my young child will be required to cross a 4 lane road way everyday during peak, rush hour traffic. It's not a matter of if a child will be injured or worse, it's a matter of when. Commuters trying to get to the Go train station are distracted and aggressive. People coming into and leaving Burlington use New St. as an alternative to Lakeshore Rd making it congested and dangerous. Right now, my child is able to ride a bike or walk to school. This drastically changes with this plan. Also, with the proposed plan we are closing two schools

adjacent to a Catholic Parish. If you include the 3 schools being proposed in Oakville as well, in a nearby community, the Catholic School board is planning to close 5 schools adjacent to a Parish. We are losing 5 schools with close access to the Churches young families are trying to raise children in. Churches that our children can attend school monthly masses in, instead of a school gymnasium. What differentiates us from the Public School Board if we remove the one very thing that holds our faith together. How are we strengthening and preserving the Catholic Faith if we continually make business decisions that move us farther away from it. We are already under fire for funding of the Catholic School Board and our decisions only add validity to their argument. Why was the St. Patrick School site not considered as the site for the new school? Please don't say because of the Acreage issue. I am checking with my local Councillor on the size of property available with the Mohawk Park, but I am assuming that land would be close enough to allow for the review to continue for a St. Patrick site and like so many other schools, the board could propose a partnership with the government body to use the space. Obviously my family is not happy about St. Patrick being reviewed at all, but to consider a location change that has so many disadvantage for our students like the Ascension site, I am prepared to do whatever I have can to ensure our community voices are heard.



22d ❤️ 1

The new site for the school being on New street is

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19/102

- The new site for the school being on New street is not safe. How can the school board even suggest New street as a site? New street was much different 50 years ago – it shouldn't even be contemplated for an elementary school in 2016. Clearly, the safety of our children isn't being considered. The St. Patrick site is much more appropriate for children than the 4 lane busy new street site (next to a high school and public pool). St. Patrick is next to the church, parkland, trees, on a relatively quiet street – there is no comparison.

- I don't trust the enrolment projections. Has the Burlington 25 year strategic plan (video recently released), Lakeside village, Skyway arena, Burloak Park developments been factored into the demographic and enrolment projections? All attract younger families to the area around St. Patrick. We have the most planned developments close to the school than the others.

- At st. Patrick we have access to the parkland for play and relationship with the church. Pg 8 of the report states that the site should be at least 5+ acres where **feasible** for re-build sites in established neighbourhoods. What's feasible for 4 acres with use of adjacent parkland? Is the plan for a one level or two level school? We accommodate 377 students on one floor today – why couldn't we add a second floor within generally the same footprint?

22d ❤️ 1

- The report states that 0% of current st Patrick

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16/03/2016

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students are eligible for transportation (table states current and proposed state). Is this correct? Does this mean that all St. Patrick families will have to cross 4 lanes on new street, through side streets that are already busy with Pineland and Robert Bateman traffic (Eg meadowhill, cheryhill, adam st., hampton heath, etc.)? There are no crosswalks across new street and closest lights are at Appleby, Adam street and Hampton Heath. This is not a safe or realistic walk for kids or families coming from the south end and will be a nightmare drive during drop off and pick up for the overall community.

22d ❤️ 2

- Why build a school requiring 4 portables on day one? With the fact that the catchment area will be so big, and it will be a new school, and with the plans to increase the population in Burlington, I don't understand why all students can't be accommodated within the safety of school walls.

- The transition will be particularly disruptive with approximately 200 students having to reside in portables. Are there any other alternatives? How many portables will be required?



20d ❤️ 2

Firstly, I fear for the safety of my children. Taking them out of a small school community of 250 into a school of +/- 650 will be a drastic change and although I can see some of the reasoning behind it I am concerned that this will have a negative impact on both their physical and emotional well-being. We

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love our small school community – everyone knows the kids and the kids know everyone – this is one of the reasons why we chose this location to buy a home in. The proposed plan talks about building a new school on the Ascension site – this is on an extremely busy street where already there is traffic congestion. Even though there are frequent speed traps – this does not eliminate the problem of speedy drivers. Now add to this school busses and triple the cars as parents from the other two school will need to get their kids to school as well. From my house alone there is not enough crossing guards, crossing lights and city sidewalks and give me peace of mind about them walking to school. Speaking of buses – more kids will need to be bused as opposed to no kids needed to be bused at our current school, therefore eliminating that risk factor. The proposed school will be next to a large public High School – the prime reason why we did not consider Ascension for our two Junior Kindergarteners. As per the proposal, the new school will not have enough space to house all three school populations therefore needing portables – how does this even make sense? Ascension does not have a parish next door as oppose to the schools that are being closed. Does our faith and values not set our board apart from the public board – what better way than to tie this all together with our main place of worship, the church. We have invested money in school uniforms – will we have to invest more in new ones? As students will our children be now in competition with triple the population for spots on teams and other extracurricular activities? Will I as a parent be

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in competition with triple the population in regards to the YMCA Before and After school spots??

Finally I am finding it very hard to believe that the current predictions are correct in regards to declining population. Seven out of eight houses that I see out of my front window have been purchased within the last five years by families who are just starting out or have small children. We have seen a trend on our street of seniors selling homes and younger families moving in. Why is this decision being made in April 2016 prior to considering the data from the May 2016 Canada Census. The purpose of that census is help with planning for services such as childcare and schooling. Needless to say that there has not been a mandatory long form census since 2001, which coincidentally is the last time I believe the question of religion was asked.



18d ❤️ 2

I just noticed that the proposed floor plan of the new build has a daycare attached to it. Why not eliminate the daycare? Is that not a way to save some space and build on the St Patrick site? There are already a number of great daycares in the area and having a daycare share the same parking area as the school on New St will bring even more cars as babies can't walk or take the bus. And safety is always key. School parents rushing in and out of the parking lot at school could cause some unwanted situations. New drivers from the high school not paying attention to the crossing guards. A new street light

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would have to be put up as there is no way someone could safely cross the lanes of New St to go eastbound.

Where did all the green area go? The plan is to remove most grass and put down a paved area for the kids. How is that right?



17d ❤️ 3

SAFETY SAFETY SAFETY

Kenwood Ave is a significantly SAFER option for our children than New st. Why isn't the Board working with the City to create a feasible option on the Kenwood site? With Mohawk park next to the school the Board can publicly apply for the purchase of required parkland. Why isn't this provided as an option???

- NOT SAFE: New st. is 4 lanes, speed limit is 60 km (40 km when light is flashing) in front of the school, and stretches along Burlington and Oakville: Kerr street in Oakville to just shy of Brant street in Burlington. Commuters travel into and out of the city from this main route! This will not change with any plan proposed by the Board. It is what it is.

-SAFE: Kenwood Ave in contrast is 2 lanes, speed limit is 40 km, is less than 1 km long. It spans from Spruce Ave to Lakeshore Rd. Local Traffic! Much more appropriate and safe for an elementary school.

Parents and community need to protect our children and advocate for the safer site: Kenwood Ave. We

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also need to urge all our public officials to support the safety of our children as well.



17d 4

Could the school board please advise if there is a study on the affects from the new Mega school on the area infrastructure. Recent flooding showed that the sewers and plumbing in this area are not sufficient to handle increased usage. The possible new condo in Food basics plaza is going through a very detailed study of this matter. Has the same been done for the proposed school on New street? Have there being a study of the changes in traffic? Many streets in this area do not have sidewalks and are not safe for kids to walk to school for a long distance. If the school board does decide to go ahead with the new school on New street, Is there a plan to install sidewalks and street lights before the opening of new school. Would not it be easier to close the assumption school and send the kids from that school to st. Patrick and st. Raphael ? Or put the adult learning centre in the assumption building, if the school board wants to move it out of the leased space ?



17d 8

I fully support the concept of consolidating the schools but am not yet convinced the Ascension site is the right approach.

My husband and I, like so many others, moved to the Elizabeth Gardens area to be close to a quality neighbourhood school. I love St. Pats as it currently

is – I feel the staff there do a phenomenal job giving my children a well-rounded education and I love the small community feel. However I am also very excited about the opportunity and benefits consolidation would bring for my children – greater access to single grade classes (which for my one son is extremely important to his future success at school), a larger cohort of children their own age to interact and become friends with, a new school with the same learning environment and resources other children in Burlington have access to, opportunity to access more programs that can only be offered in a larger school with the right amenities (e.g. musical instrument classes, extended French) and perhaps an easier transition into a larger high school environment. I also realize the writing is on the wall so to speak in that the Ontario Government is no longer willing to provide funding for half empty schools, a message they reinforced in the budget released this week. I would much rather the HCDSB take advantage of government funding being offered now to build a new, modern school for my children to attend, than at some point (likely in the not too distant future) be forced to have them moved to an older, out-of-date, existing school facility.

What makes me uncomfortable about the proposed recommendation is the location of the new school on the Ascension site, as I feel the St. Patrick's location is better suited to house an elementary school for a number of reasons:

- St. Pat's is located in a serene residential neighbourhood next to a park which provides ample

green space for children to play in during recess

- There is less traffic since it is on a residential side street and not on a main arterial road; it's also located at a 4 way stop which reduces the likelihood of accidents and fatalities and increases the safety of students

- Because there is reduced traffic volume in the area around St. Patrick and there is no other school with a conflicting start time to add to traffic congestion, it would be possible to have a school start time of 9am, allowing parents to drop off their children at 8:45 and still arrive to work for 9am as they currently do. This would benefit Ascension families as well.

- Traffic on New Street has drastically increased over the last 50 years since Ascension was built. I went to Ascension as a child and had to cross New Street (the boundaries were different at that time). It made me uncomfortable then to do so (There was a fatality at the crossing guard while I attended Ascension) and it makes me even more uncomfortable now for my children to do it. The amount of traffic is only going to increase further if this is the site for the new school as very few St. Pat's kids will be bussed and since it is too far for families to now walk, they will have to drive their kids to school (me included). I don't feel the flashing 40km/hr zone or the two crossing guards are adequate to ensure the safety of my children and I'm not convinced there is a lot the city can do to make it any safer given the number of side streets, parking lot entrances and the existing set of lights at Bateman that are all located on such a small length

of an extremely busy road.

- St. Pat's is close to amenities like Skyway arena (which our junior students had the pleasure of walking to and using this winter) and is at the centre of the new community hub being planned for Skyway Arena, Skyway Park and Lakeside Plaza

- St. Pat's is located next to another elementary school, not a high school so children are not exposed to older students and their behaviour such as smoking, skipping classes/loitering, adult/inappropriate language.

- Allows for closer proximity to an affiliated Church – I understand that 90% of HCDSB students do not attend a school adjacent to their parish and that it does not stop the schools and parish from having a close connection. I truly believe that no matter where the new school is placed, Father Ray and Mary Tessari will continue to actively contribute to the faith development of the students with the same dedication they do today.....I do think though that having a school beside the parish remains a unique and beneficial opportunity for students that should not be discounted just because it is a departure from the way new schools are built.

I greatly appreciate Board staff showing what the new school would look like on the St. Patrick property in the info package sent out in advance of the March 2 community meeting. I think it is very helpful to understand what having less than 5 acres for a site really means. However, with a few modifications, it's my opinion that the proposed

school footprint could also work on the St. Patrick's site:

- Parking – the amount of parking in the proposed site plan could be reduced since there is access to parking on the Church site next door....perhaps an agreement can be entered into with the church to rejig the parking lots so they are attached and make up one big lot, making traffic flow even better than it does now at the school.
- If more space is needed to accommodate portables, the following could be considered: reduce "landscaped" space (e.g. between street and bus loop or along parking area); reduce the # of childcare spaces so the footprint of the childcare centre is less
- I understand that the city is not interested in selling any Mohawk Park land to HCDSB to expand the school site and make the proposed site plan work, which I find very disappointing. However, I wonder if there have been discussions to enter into a joint use agreement – it would be great to have a paved area in the "park" with basketball nets or games painted on the pavement that could be used by students during school hours but also by local families after school during the week and on weekends. Very rarely are there people using Mohawk Park, other than dogs being walked. The baseball diamond is unkept and in very poor shape and there is nothing for families to do there. This would be a great opportunity for the city to enhance recreational amenities for the local community, as well as for the school and would be very complementary to the new

community hub being planned further down the street

I highly encourage Board staff and Trustees to look further into how this could work on the St. Patrick's site, taking advantage of this window of opportunity to build a new school with government funding. I really believe there is a great opportunity to have the school at this location.



17d 3

Excellent points raised above by [redacted] I've also heard the City wasn't interested in selling Mohawk Park, however when I reached out to our City Counselor I was told that the City makes such decisions by way of council decisions made in public, and there was no public application submitted by the board for purchase of the land. So where is the public record of the City declining an offer via the formal public process?



13d 4

I attended the consultation meeting last night and was very disappointed in the level of detail provided by the HCDSB about the need for closing St. Patrick's school, besides the Ministry of Education supplying money to consolidate schools. It appears that no real thought or analysis has gone into the modified consolidation review. I would like to know how HCDSB has arrived at their enrolment rate/population growth for St. Patrick's school and if anyone from the City of Burlington or Halton Region has reviewed these projections and agree with

them. As well, the site plan has not been altered at all to determine what possibly could be accommodated at the St. Patrick's site. It is a cookie cutter site plan that is being squeezed on all three site, with no thought or innovation. Who prepared the site plan? Why isn't one produced for each site to see what is feasible at each location given the amount of space available? Also, if HCDSB needs to achieve 5 ha for a new school site, have you approached the City of Burlington to acquire 1 ha from Mohawk park? The meeting last night was such a poor format and does not qualify as a "consultation" event. Parents could not ask questions to HCDSB staff. We were asked to respond to 3 questions that had already been circulated in the survey. There was no dialogue between the HCDSB and the community. It seems like HCDSB has made up their minds already to close the schools, rebuild on New Street and really do not care what parents or the community thinks.



12d ❤️ 3

I also attended last night's meeting and left it feeling highly unsatisfied with the process. In my mind I was hoping that the questions raised on the forum prior to the meeting would be addressed at that meeting. However, instead we heard the same presentation as on the website (even more concise version) and were asked to answer the same questions that were previously asked on the survey. There was no additional meaningful information or discussion provided by the board.

It is now clear that the board and the community are pursuing different goals. The way I see it, the school board is motivated by the following:

- "Window of opportunity" to collect funds from the province for the construction of new school, especially where there is no guarantee that similar funding will be available at a future date, when all three schools will be in need of capital repairs.
- In order to qualify for funding, their project has to meet certain criteria including consolidation of 2 or more schools, greater utilization of available spaces, projected lower enrollment in existing schools and creation of childcare spaces.
- The school board wants to build the new school as fast as possible with minimum effort on their part and minimum possibilities of cost overruns, unexpected additional expenditures and etc. That's why the board wants to utilize the same floor plan that they already used on other schools.

On the other hand, the community is feeling the following:

- Generally unhappy about the whole process including consolidation, relocation and closure of schools.
- Really unhappy that schools are going to be taken away from the parish.
- Really unhappy regarding the proposed new site for the school – on the busy street and beside the high school, without any green space, away from the convenience of local parks and arenas.

Although the board representative said numerous times that no decision has been made, the meeting that was held on March 2 2016 showed that the decision is already made. The presentation felt well-rehearsed as if it was already done a number of times and is going to be repeated again in a near future. It created the feeling that the School board is going through the consolidation/ closure steps in accordance to its policies/ ministry guidelines in order to protect itself from possible future legal actions.

The Ultimate decision resides with the school board trustees and one would hope that at the end of the day, when it is time to vote, they actually do have students' best interest in their mind. As long as it does not disagree with the overall Board's agenda and improves overall Boards profitability.

As such, I would strongly recommend for the board to take a second look at St. Patrick's site. The desired concept that is used by the school board could be accommodated by either an agreement with the Church to combine the parking area or by purchasing a parcel of land from the municipality. City of Burlington in its 2016 Capital Budget approved the renewal of Mohawk Park for the Infrastructure update. It includes new design, new pathways and etc with design/ completion set for 2016 – 2017. This is a perfect match to the school board's time frame and is an excellent opportunity to discuss the joint use of the land with the city (which I think is done by the city and public school board in a

number of their schools).

By putting the new school on St. Patrick site the board will achieve its goals, it will partially address community concerns and will achieve even greater savings/ improved cash flow from the sale of property on New street.

When trustees are making their decision each of them should ask themselves where would I want my child to go to school and realize that even one accident on New Street involving a child would be one too many and would be entirely their responsibility, which will stay with them even after they are not serving on the school board any more.

The school board goes through many reviews and they fully anticipate public opposition to the proposed closures. In this case, the closure and consolidation itself while not ideal is not as strongly opposed by the community as the proposed site for the new school. Where the alternative, St. Patrick site with the slight, inexpensive and not labour intensive configurations will meet the needs of both parties.

In conclusion, I would like to add that ~ 90% of catholic schools currently operate without close proximity to the parish and it seems that keeping the Church and the School in a close proximity is not a primarily concern of the school board. However, as I am sure school board is aware, there have been some talks in the media that there is no longer a need for two separate school boards in Ontario: public and catholic and ongoing removing of the schools from the close proximity to the church might

provide additional support to these arguments.

 HCDSB-PAR Admin 12d

Thank you to all for your time and patience as you share your comments, recommendations and concerns in the online forum. Please note that we are in the process of reviewing questions and responding to feedback from the forum and Community Consultation Meeting held for Burlington Southeast. We will also be sharing your questions, concerns and comments with Trustees before they reach any decision.

 11d  3

I am heartened to read the strong points made by St. Pat's parents. All valid. I think this amalgamation is a done deal. I do think it needs to be at your site, not Ascension. One point your group is missing is the distance for the St. Raphael kids. Is Ascension the choice to meet the ministry parameters for travel? Nonetheless, I think this is terrible for all of us. It is too big. Align your two schools on the safer St. Pat site. align St. Paul's and St. Raph's. Therefore we would not have the 8 km distance between two south Burlington "proposed" schools. I know parents on the St. Paul chat group have suggested this. I really hope the board officials, elected officials and even the parish priests know how upset we are at being discounted and ignored. Enough too with the Robo responses. Answer our concerns in detail. Please

 11d  2

I agree...If consolidation is a must, can you close Ascension (dispose / split land / use for Merton Adult Learning centre) and combine with St. Patrick, re-build on st. Patrick site and create a school for 500+ students that may not require the same footprint as the planned 648 pupil school? This total meets the Board's stated optimal school capacity of 500-671 spaces. This also avoids the need for portables. The footprint on one floor today fits 337 – so I don't see why we couldn't make this work. St. Raphael can be reviewed with the other southwest schools – particularly where the same parish is shared.

 11d  2

All good points on student #'s. The sticking point with the entrenched attitudes if the HCDSB is the use if a cookie cutter architectural plan. Drop the one size fits all model. You are fixed on a pre paid "foot print", hire an architect to honour our community schools, rebuild and add additions to st. Pat's and st. Paul's (which seemingly has more room to play with than st. Raph's does) Leave st. John's alone. You still get your two builds, two amalgamations. Liz Sandals and your ministry friends can say to the media that money has been spent wisely for future education. Your board gets revamped physical spaces. Our families won't be stretched between 8 kms. Read the Post, Thursday March 3rd. Jack Denison says the idea of decline is faulty. In this ward 20% of new home buyers are

young families. 400 more single dwelling homes with large properties (a hot commodity for those with any ear to the news in the GTA), have an aging senior (1 or 2), who will pass on (part of our life expectancy), and thus properties go on the market to be purchased by said future Younger families. This is economics 101. Stop being short sighted and expedient. This does not even account for the future mixed housing and high rises that are sure to make their way to Burlington. Toronto is not a market for families. Too expensive. Operate 3 schools, not two. And market the Catholic education system. Do not antagonize your community and tax payers to the point where they withdraw to the public system.



HCDSB and Trustees of the Board – Why the double standard?

As part of the Burlington Southwest QEW PAR concurrently happening with our Southeast review, why is the Board willing to build a 4-6 classroom Addition on the St. John's site to accommodate 475-521 bodies on a mere 1.92 acre lot. If you're willing to make their lot (half the size of St. Patrick site) work, why wouldn't you make the 4 acre St. Patrick site work for our needs in Southeast?

In the Southwest St. John's is clearly not the most ideal or feasible site, with less acreage than St. Paul, no bus loop, and parking is shared with the parish. How did they get chosen as the site for their

school? St. Patrick doesn't have those limitations and somehow it comes down to not enough acreage for our site? We have 2 more acres of land than St. John's yet somehow with all their limitations it's feasible to be flexible and create a solution tailored to their site and fit 521 bodies.

Please create an option on the St. Patrick site for the Southeast.



In regards to Mohawk Park, since there's an existing agreement for St. Patrick to use the Mohawk Park and planned investment to update the infrastructure of said park, this is a plus for the St. Patrick site. Should the Board need to acquire more land, applying for 1 of the 7.2 acres can be done via the stated process below.

See recap from the City of Burlington response regarding Mohawk Park, and Capital Budget Details: Site size is 7.2 acres Mohawk Park Infrastructure Renewal (via City of Burlington Approved Capital Budget) \$200,000 over 2016 and 2017 planned investment for Mohawk Park. This is the time to work with the City on a mutually beneficial plan for the park. Reciprocal Agreement to use the Park The City and the two school Boards (public and catholic) share use of playgrounds and the parties permit each others' fields and facilities via a Reciprocal Agreement to maximize facility use and minimize duplication of capital costs. Land Purchase In order for the HCDSB to use Mohawk park for anything other than park use would require them to purchase

or lease all or part of the park. No such request has been made to the City. Any sale consideration would have to be made by City Council resolution.



10d 4

Request for School Consolidation Capital Projects and New Construction of Child Care

Based on the Dec 16 2015 memorandum from the Ministry of Education regarding submissions for SCC funding (excerpt below), how does the timeline expecting final trustee decision on accommodation reviews by March. 28th align to the full Modified PAR process parents have to follow, where public delegations happen after that date on April 5th and final Trustee decision not until April 19th?

"We are writing to announce details of the 2016 School Consolidation Capital (SCC) program which is supported through the \$750 million in funding that was announced in the 2014-15 GSN release as part of the School Board Efficiencies and Modernization (SBEM) initiative. We expect that school boards will be submitting projects for SCC funding that are linked to accommodation reviews decisions. Please note, projects related to accommodation reviews must have a final trustee decision by March 28, 2016 to be considered for SCC funding approval.

Submission of School Consolidation Capital Projects-

Beginning January 15, 2016, school boards will be

able to submit their requests for SCC funding through the School Facilities Inventory System (SFIS). Only a school board's eight highest priority projects expected to open no later than 2019-20 will be considered for SCC funding and will need to be supported with a completed business case. School boards are required to submit their SCC business cases by February 29, 2016. The Ministry will not accept business cases after this date.

School boards can save their work in progress within the SFIS Capital Priorities module, however, once school boards submit their business cases, their submissions will be locked from further editing. School boards will only be able to modify their business cases by requesting that their Capital Analyst unlock the submission."



10d 1

Interesting! This is rather telling isn't it. Thank you for digging this up. The school won't be able to change or adjust their plans by the sound of this outline by the ministry. And thus, as was suspected by many parents, this is "consultation" after the fact.



9d

Great points and questions raised about Mohawk Park. There are so many opportunities and possibilities. Also great question about SCC funding timelines and interesting how the plan submission and final decision dates are prior to the public delegations and final decision date through the PAR

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process. The more we find out, the more unsettling this all is.



9d 1

A gentle (but very important) reminder to those parents who are in support of this opportunity of a new school in SE Burlington. This tremendous opportunity is not only for our children, but also for generations to come. We are so blessed to be presented with this opportunity, and our Trustees need to hear our appreciation and support. Please remember to send in your supportive feedback to Trustees. If you don't, how will they know there are supporters too? (we are hearing a lot from people who don't, and the Trustees NEED to hear true representation of the community). Please take 2 minutes out of your day, and write a quick email to our trustees if you are in support. Thank you kindly.



9d 1

StPatrickDad there are supporters on this thread for a new school, however not on the proposed site.



9d

Great to hear.

9d 2

We've read a lot about asking Halton Catholic School Board to look for opportunities to the NORTH of St. Patrick School (Mohawk Park) to

<https://muut.com/burlington-southeast-mpar>

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make St. Patrick School Site the 5+ required acres. What about Halton Catholic School Board looking for opportunities SOUTH of St. Patrick School? St. Patrick Church is on a large piece of land siding St. Patrick School to the south. The school board could lease or purchase 1 acre from the Church and this could be a "done deal". We read a suggestion from another parent that St. Patrick Church could potentially operate very nicely with only having one South driveway to access their large parking lot at the back.



8d 4

According to the administrator of this forum all points raised here are going to be brought up to the attention of the Trustees. I would like to officially submit the link to the Child Pedestrian Injuries Report from SafeKidsCanada.ca which was completed with data from Transport Canada, Statistics Canada and the Canadian Institute for Health Information. See the link below.

Child Pedestrian Injuries Report from SafeKidsCanada.ca

www.parachutecanada.org/.../ChildPed_Report_07:08.pdf

Key facts of the report:

- Child pedestrian injuries are a leading cause of injury related death for Canadian children aged 14 years or younger.
- Pedestrian-related injuries contribute almost 15

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per cent of all injury-related deaths of children younger than 14 years.

- On average, 30 child pedestrians younger than 14 years are killed and 2,412 are injured every year.
- Children aged 10 to 14 years have the highest risk of pedestrian injuries and deaths

Traffic environments contribute greatly to the frequency and severity of pedestrian-related crashes. Children are more likely to be struck by a car in areas with heavy traffic volumes, a high density of parked cars, higher speed limits, and limited choices for play, such as available green space.

When children are struck by vehicles, their injuries are often life threatening or cause permanent physical damage. In children nine years of age and younger, the centre of gravity is often below the bumper, so that the child's chest or head is the first point of contact with the bumper, rather than the legs.

Passenger vehicles are most often the type of vehicle that injures or kills child pedestrians, followed by light trucks (including SUVs) and vans. In addition, the highest number of child pedestrian injuries and deaths occur in areas where the posted speed limit is 50 km/hr.

Young children in general often favour the most direct route available, rather than seeking the safest place to cross. As a result, they will cross in the middle of the block, at right angles to the curb, or

diagonally across an intersection. In order to cross a street independently AND safely, children need three important skills that are typically NOT acquired until between 9 and 11 years of age: 1. The ability to determine and use a safe crossing pathway 2. The capability to realistically assess a vehicle's speed 3. The cognitive means to judge safe gaps in traffic.

In a Transport Canada study on driver behaviours and attitudes towards speeding, seven out of 10 drivers admit to exceeding the speed limit, at least occasionally.

Now to put in the local perspective, as reported by the Halton Regional Police Service, from September 2015 to March 2016 there were 17 HIT & RUN traffic incidents on New Street from Walkers to Appleby and nearby local streets (with majority around school hours) and ZERO traffic accidents in Kenwood Avenue area.



www.crimereports.com/agency/Halton#

8d 3

Please note that the last point on children injury post should read on New street from Walkers to Burloak.



8d 3

There's been 577 collisions on New St. between Appleby and Burloak from 2000 – 2015. An average of 36 per year. So that's 360 collisions for a child's 10 year tenure at school in that area alone on New

st., a 4 lane roadway spanning across two cities with a 60 km speed limit (unless light flashing). Imagine how many collisions across the entire stretch, and along key roads linked to New St. The proposed site is NOT SAFE FOR CHILDREN.

Source of the collision data comes from the City of Burlington Traffic Services.



7d

School board posted answers to some of the questions from the Community meeting. Would like to point out that not a single one of these answers addresses the concern that schools are going to be taken away from the parishes and the answers feel very vague and not specific.

www.hcdsb.org/.../0Consultation%20Meeting.pdf



7d

We thought some of the answers were very specifically answered and some were not. What stood out in the feedback to us is that HCDSB specifically indicated that: 1/ The Diocese of Hamilton, and 2/ The City of Burlington, have both indicated they are unable (unwilling) to work with HCDSB to find IDEAL land space for a new school. This is of great concern for numerous reasons on all levels for: 1/ The future of Burlington's South-end Community (City of Burlington's appeal to families—or not), 2/ The relationship and partnership of The Catholic Church with HCDSB and its impact on our communities and schools.

Reply...



HCDSB-PAR Admin 7w in **St. Raphael Catholic Elementary School** 53

Burlington Southeast QEW Pupil Accommodation Review (St. Raphael)

On January 19, 2016, the Board approved the initiation of the Burlington Southeast QEW Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR), as it relates to the following schools:

Ascension Catholic Elementary School

St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School

St. Raphael Catholic Elementary School

For more information about the PAR process, please visit our website: (bit.ly/BurlingtonSoutheast-PAR)

Parents and members of the community can share their opinions and provide their comments below, and are also welcome to attend the **Community Consultation Meeting**, which will take place on: Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at Assumption Catholic Secondary School, at 7:00 p.m.

[X Register for the Consultation Meeting here](#)

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when is the consultation meeting?



The Community Consultation Meeting is on Wednesday, March 2, at Assumption Catholic Secondary School, at 7:00 pm. More information can be found on our website: bit.ly/BurlingtonSoutheast-PAR



As a parent with two children at St. Raphael I welcome the chance to send them to a more modern facility as described in the proposal. They would also benefit from a larger school community because there would be more classes in each grade level and more extracurricular activities (clubs and teams)



I too see a new school as an opportunity for change that will positively affect our kids education through teaching, leadership, clubs, learning through modern devices, etc



...

7w ♥ 3

Our perspective is that we fully support this proposed plan. We are ecstatic that many, many parents we know are also in favour of this. This plan

<https://muut.com/burlington-southeast-mpar>

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will provide extraordinary opportunities for our children. (For the new building itself, it's a "bonus", but the real opportunity is in the programs, extra-curricular offerings, increased depth of socialization opportunities within their own grade, and a campus that isn't just a black top—with a proven hazardous parking lot. It would probably be safe to assume that St Patricks and Ascension also have similar challenges that we currently face too). We have full confidence that HCDSB is moving forward with this extensively researched and methodical/logical plan. (As we all know, HCDSB operates on funding from taxpayers and the Ministry: it would simply be illogical to continue to operate partially empty schools, especially with the projected declining enrollments. In fact, does HCDSB even have a choice in this matter?—we're certain that it's the Ministry who is calling the shots here. From our perspective, the writing is on the wall...and it's been a long time coming.



We also welcome the larger number of students in each grade that the proposal would give us. Right now there are only 13 grade 3s so they would never get their own class and would always have to be in a split class for their whole time at St Raphael.



My kids are currently at St Raph's and I fully support the merger of the 3 schools. My only concern with the Ascension site, is that they don't have a church attached to the school and its on a very busy street.

<https://muut.com/burlington-southeast-mpar>

48/102

At St. Pat's, it seems to be a safer area with a park and room to expand the school. But it has the church right there as well. To me that is a huge factor in deciding where to re-build a school.



6w 3

Location, Location, Location. We totally agree. St Pat's is a bit smaller of a property than Ascension's site, but we don't understand why this couldn't work? OR, BUY ANY OPTIMAL LAND ON A SIDE STREET? Or, buy the land across the street from the city where Skyway Arena is—it is also adjacent to a park (if that parcel of land where Skyway Arena is happens to be larger than St Pat's school land).



6w 4

This is really disturbing. Am I the only parent at St. Raphael who wants their children to walk or bike to their neighbourhood school? What about smaller schools in which children and parents know each other? The HCDSB is shooting itself in the foot. Enrollment will go down. I will not support this move. My child will have to go to a nearby public school if this happens. The Catholic system is being eroded by this ministry carrot. I teach in a large Catholic high school. Trust me bigger is not better. Kids get lost in the system. Parents that think this makes your parent "better", I ask how, if you don't know your "neighbours"?



6w 7

I am against the closing of two neighbourhood schools to amalgamate with a third to make a new mega school. Catholic students need Catholic schools in their communities! Ironical that HCDSB tweeted this morning about #winterwalkday challenging students to walk to school when they intend to take hundreds of "walkers" and make them "bussers"!



6w 3

Judging by the number of cars pulling in and out of the lot every morning and afternoon, not very many are walking.



HCDSB-PAR Admin 6w

Thanks for your feedback, everyone. Your comments will be shared with Trustees before they reach a decision.

While a small school community has its benefits, it becomes difficult to offer the same number of specialized programs and extra-curricular activities with declining student enrollment.

Staff have looked at all the options, and the Ascension site provides the best feasibility. It is larger than the St. Patrick site (5.75 acres as opposed to 4.0 acres) and will be able to hold a two-storey building that can accommodate 648 students. The proposed school design will use a 21st Century Learning model, with an outdoor play area and adequate space for parking and a bus loading area.

With a larger school community comes a larger

group of staff. This provides greater flexibility with extra-curricular activities, more resources and the ability to collaborate with a greater number of peers to develop program offerings. The proposed new school facility will continue to support the home-school-parish connection, allowing for healthy and vibrant partnerships to form between students, staff, parents, pastors, and members of our community.

We hope you are able to join us at the Community Consultation Meeting on March 2. Register here: [X survey.hcdsb.org/2016MPAR.aspx](https://survey.hcdsb.org/2016MPAR.aspx)



6w 3

Thank you. I've already registered for the consultation meeting. I've also read the accommodation review. Table 9 states that St. Patrick has adequate parking and bus loading area, Mohawk park and a Catholic Church next door. Table 10 states N/A next to site limitations. Parents should understand what is actually feasible on the 4 acre site, and whether a second level can be added, vs dismissing the site altogether.



5w 4

I would like to know how the educational environment for my child at St. Raphael's improves under this proposal? Our school currently sits at or near the top of HCDSB elementary schools for academics. Are extra clubs really the main reason we should be considering this change? Why won't the school board stop painting this change as being an improvement for the education of our children

and instead call it what it is. A cost savings measure.

Further, the proposal will result in Ascension being OVER populated for at least the first 5 years. So we move from a school with excess capacity to one with not enough. How will there be space available in an amalgamated school to reap the benefits that are being touted of a larger school?

And larger schools do NOT guarantee that there will no longer be split classes. Split classes are a way of life and wholly dependent upon registrations. Certainly the probability of a split diminishes with a larger student body, but there are no guarantees.

I would also like to know why – if the Board intends on keeping the St. Raphael building open (as a Merton location) – it is prepared to incur the upkeep costs for a repurposed facility, but not if the school stayed instead? Presumably these costs don't all of a sudden disappear if the school isn't there anymore. If you're going to pay the costs anyways, why not keep the school in place and not completely disrupt the lives of the families currently at St. Raphaels? If the board is concerned about declining student enrollment in the community they are guaranteeing it will decline by closing the school. Closing the school – currently directly beside St. Raphaels church will have a detrimental affect on both the Church community and the entire community as a whole. Why will anyone of the Catholic faith with elementary aged children consider moving to this area knowing they will need to bus their children?

Why is the school board not investigating as an option rebuilding St. Raphael's in its current location as a school built for the community – 250 students. Study after study show that larger schools do not necessarily equate to better educational environments. In most cases they result in more issues for students. Bottom line – do not close our school. Look for a better solution.



HCDSB-PAR Admin 5w

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and concerns. Know that the comments on this online forum will be shared with Trustees before they reach a decision.

You are right – classroom ratios will remain the same, but there would be a reduction in the need for double-split classrooms in the proposed school. If this plan is approved, there is the potential for additional teaching staff and the intent is that portables would be needed for the short-term.

A number of valid points have been raised here and we want to let you know that your feedback is important to us. You are more than welcome to join us at the Community Consultation Meeting on March 2nd (survey.hcdsb.org/2016MPAR.aspx) and an online survey will be offered in February where you can share your feedback.



27d 3

I am totally in disagreement of this move to a larger community school. We have already been a family

of Ascension and moved to allow our children access to a smaller community school, to have the ability to walk to and from school and to be safe when attending church for school purposes. I have seen a huge leap in my child since we have moved to st Raphael's school and would encourage the board to keep it open. As other parents have stated st Raphael's is among the top preformed in the district. I the numbers are low in the schools a suggestion bring french immersion to these schools, a lot of the families who move to Burlington go up north because they have access to the French immersion. I would love for my child to attend french immersion however I am not willing to bus her to another school for his reason. My other issue with the migration with the schools is who will pay for the uniforms that I have invested in for my children. I doubt the school board will reimburse me those fees. As a Savy mom i took full advantage of the discount that was given when the uniforms were introduced and now after two years am I expected to invest in different school tops? I think the board needs to get there heads away from the financial benefits this merger will provide and for once think of those who are supporting the schools and the HDSB. I for one am not against supporting public schooling, which I and many others w'll be investigating. I have no issue educating my children along with my church alone. I say no thank you to the merger, my child and our community are doing just fine.



27d 2

Thankyou for raising the uniform issue. I guess this whole move to a larger school, under the Ascension name, would negate the resale of St. Raphael uniform shirts that one's child has grown out of. Not very fair to our families, many of whom need to operate on a tight budget.

Secondly, I too would like to follow up on the point raised above, about clearly having chosen to move to this area of south west Burlington, twelve years ago from Toronto. I loved this area. I don't see the decline locals go on about. There is space for walking, riding, shopping etc. And yes the close proximity of St.Raphael's, church and school was a huge feature. I totally agree that I calculated the walking distance for my kids, then and now. One in high school now walks to meet her younger brother after school. This helps me as a working mother.

Again, do our trustees and school board officials taking into account any of these real life variables of their Catholic school community? Do you all work under the misguided notion that an older community is not a desirable place to live and raise one's children? Is it only the new suburban developments that deserve your accolades? St. Raphael's is a well maintained school. Could it have a larger population? Yes. It did when my daughter attended, averaging 450 students. But as discussed above, what about French programs. We loose students in our area to Pinelands. Start marketing. Don't give our school up to please Liz Sandals and company.



27d ❤️ 2

I'm not worried about the uniform at all. I'm confident the HCDSB will create a fair plan to nil/void extra costs of new shirts. Past performance predicts future behaviour...HCDSB already set a precedent and offered to pay for uniforms at St Raph's for folks who needed help. I'm certain they will compensate for this extenuating circumstance. 😊 (PS-I'm assuming that since Ascension is being flattened, that HCDSB will create a new school name too)



27d ❤️ 2

I would like the Board – both senior staff and more importantly our elected school board trustees – to seriously consider changing the format of the upcoming parents meeting. Make the meeting a true town-hall style meeting where staff and Trustees have an opportunity to make their pitch to parents about why they believe the amalgamation to be in the best interest of our school community. THEN – allow parents a form to publicly ask, AND provide a forum for staff and Trustees (who should at all times remain accountable to the school community) to publicly answer all questions.

A process by which staff will make a short presentation and then parents will be grouped off to scribe feedback onto chart paper is not a very effective way for parents to truly provide input.



27d ❤️ 2

The uniforms at all of the elementary schools are

the uniforms at all of the elementary schools are the same — blue and white. This is a non-factor.

Our family has been attending St Raphael's across two generations and for more than 40 years, and we take a back seat to nobody when it comes to our attachment to the Parish. Frankly the school facility is inadequate by any modern standard. It is embarrassing when our children on teams travel to new schools in North Burlington or Milton, or when their Rep team practices and sports camps are held in those schools. We do not plan to sit idly by while a vocal minority campaigns to keep our children in substandard facilities with limited co-curricular opportunities, classroom accommodations and programming opportunities — not to mention the dangerous parking lot and terribly inadequate, hard-top dominated play areas.



27d 3

I am sorry but the only vocal minority expressing their opinions here are the ones in favour of this. There are a lot of us that feel this plan is greatly flawed.



27d 1

I am unaware of a survey which confirms and quantifies the # of people supporting this proposed plan versus not. Is there one? (There are approx 250 children at the school). It could be surprising to everyone to hear the true #'s of what the entire community combined think. ("Vocal Minority" is subjective).

27d

We fully support [REDACTED]'s comment above (we are 100% aligned, and yes, uniforms is a "non-factor"). We respect that not all families feel the same. We have chosen the option of a modern facility with clearly more opportunities on all levels. The opportunities that we provide our children is a choice. Staying at St Raphael's as it is now, is not a choice that our family plans to do—especially with projected declining enrollment. We are also now considering the option of the public board and the opportunities they provide. (As we're on the theme of sports, this proposed plan will also provide a significant opportunity for a more competitive and realistic Sports Program for our children. A larger school will contribute to increased competition for places on any given sports team that our children are passionate about. This will help our children enhance and develop skills such as determination, perseverance, commitment, and the drive for excellence. This could ultimately result in increased talent, therefore fostering tremendous new opportunities too. Eg. University Scholarships, etc...)



26d 1

Uniforms are a non factor? That's insulting to those where money is a factor. How do you pass on the uniform to younger children of big families, or as I said above, resell gently used tops. Nor is it a question of blue and white colour scheme repetition, it is the embroidered school crest that is not

removable.

Next point, what is substandard? Please list how the functioning physical spaces effect delivery of curriculum. You have smart boards and other iT support at the school. Frankly, I'd take smaller class sizes for my child any day over shiny and new hallway tiles, or a freshly built gymnasium. Also, the issue of sports teams mentioned above needs to be addressed. It is an extra curricular aspect of school. It is not mandated as part of a teacher's work day. Stop trying to hook parents with this nebulous point. I coach and believe in volunteering for my community, so I am not saying this isn't important, but I am saying it is not contractual.

Further, I strongly object to the epitaph of "vocal minority". Is this not a democratic forum? Or is the school board going through the motions to say that parents have a voice? But, not if we object. Then we are labeled as a vocal minority. Nice.

 26d  2

I am firmly against merging the schools. Merging will mean losing the small community feel. We chose St.Raphael's because we wanted a small school. Large schools have more bullying, larger class sizes, and the need for things like "nutrition breaks" in place of lunch and recess. Losing St.Raphael's means losing things like Grandparents' tea, halloween hoe down, etc. The school is functioning as is.

Larger classrooms and relegating the students to

simply being "numbers" to the staff is not in the best interest of the students. Children do better in smaller classes, with more individual attention. Plus, bullying is a very real concern nowadays, and the larger the school, the harder it is for staff to keep an eye out and make sure bullying is not taking place. I will not sit idly by while the vocal minority demand bigger, flashier schools.

 26d  1

St Raphael School has some VERY large class sizes, most importantly, some do not meet the Ministry of Education mandated guideline cap of 20 students. Not sure where the idea of a small school equates to small class sizes? This is proven not true at St Raphael.

26d

Re-uniforms: The school (hcdsb) graciously offered to pay/supplement the costs of uniforms for those who needed assistance when they were rolled out last year. I can only assume they would do the same this time for the shirts, hence a non-issue.

 26d  2

The uniform issue is a small part of this problem. But to address the gracious assistance comment, that involves families in need. I am not in this category. I simply work and pay the bills. As most St. Raphael families do. You should not presume this is a non-issue. The bigger issue is destruction of smaller community schools. Failure to market and program to our neighbourhood families. The

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program to our neighbourhood families. The HCDSB made a concerted effort to shift the upcoming gr.5 class out of St. Raphael to be bussed to St. Gabriel. I'd choose the French stream if you kept it local. I do not want my child bussed over 5km one way, or 3 km to the new Ascension site.



25d

HCDSB: Can we please have a comment from you regarding the uniform shirts? Since the uniforms are so new at St. Raphael's, it seems to be an inquiry that many are interested to find out about. (St. Raphael's families did just invest in an entire new uniform system last year). I suppose the zip up blue sweater jacket is also an issue. Thank you.

25d 1

Pwhelan: I agree, I feel you have highlighted an extremely important point. Without a doubt, there hasn't been much success to have Catholic families at our neighbouring Catholic schools. I know so many Catholic families in HDSB. This is a huge concern. In our neighbourhood, it's exactly 80/20 rule. 80% of the kids go to Public, 20% Catholic.



HCDSB-PAR Admin 25d

Thank you for sharing your comments.

We understand that buying uniforms is costly, and your school community just recently adopted a uniform, so we will find ways to support families through the transition period. This would include

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phasing in the new uniform by allowing students to continue to wear their old uniform top (the pants are identical in all elementary schools) until the child outgrows it, and until new uniform pieces can be acquired over time. There is also been some discussion about replacing the crest that could be adhered to the current white shirt. This would all be discussed at the Transition Committee level if this proposal is approved.



24d 9

I have many concerns with the plan our school board is proposing. Starting with the sheer size of the proposed school – 650 students is way too large for an elementary school. Numerous studies over a 30 year period have demonstrated that smaller schools are safer, offer better teaching, and result in higher academic performance. Given that St. Raphael ranks first of all 45 Burlington elementary schools in the Fraser Institute rankings based on standardized testing it appears to support that a small school results in higher test scores for all students, and studies confirm that for less affluent students that smaller schools are even more beneficial for academic results. Students report feeling safer, attend school more frequently, and report being more attached to their schools. Students feel comfort that teachers know their name, their siblings and their parents. Bullying and violence are recorded as lower because students know each other and take responsibility for themselves and others. I can tell you from knowing the 13 year old boys on my older son's hockey team

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that live throughout Burlington that St. Raphael certainly provides a benefit in its small size in the social sense. The boys that attend mega schools are much more socially mature and have greater issues with social media getting out of hand. In addition, in smaller schools teachers report feeling more committed and connected in their work, higher job satisfaction and a greater sense of responsibility for ongoing student learning in smaller schools. By suggesting this size school will prepare them for high school is absurd. My son in grade one has no need to be prepared for high school, he is in need of a small, loving caring environment at his age.

Using the lure of more clubs, teams and programming gives us a false sense that our children will be more involved, satisfied and successful. I would argue that our St. Raphael's teams and clubs have always been very successful. My older children have been to the board finals in many sports, despite St. Raphael's being small. Perhaps because we are small our coaches take on a few younger ones (the "little whippers") to groom along the way and can keep replenishing their team with experienced players. But, what I value most is that they all have a chance to experience team sports. In a school of 650, if 12 players are picked for a volleyball or basketball team, there are certainly 100 kids that didn't get chosen. So I would argue with a larger school there is actually less of an opportunity for involvement in sport. As a Catholic high school phys ed teacher, the emphasis of elementary sports teams to me represent a chance

to try something new, build leadership skills and support friends both on and off the court. As a rep parent, I see how competitive the community sports can be and overwhelming in the time and money demands. I have certainly enjoyed the time spent in our little gym watching kids play sports for the sheer love of the game and the smiles on their faces to be able to play with their best friends for a change instead of a group of friends spread far across the city in a more tense environment. I am not ashamed or embarrassed to have visiting teams play us in our gym, maybe it gives the opponent a life lesson that great things can come from humble environments and we don't have to succumb to today's pressure that everything has to be brand new and shiny to have value.

We have one of the strongest Ministries of Education in the world. They provide best practices for teachers that are well researched and documented. I am disappointed that they are dangling a carrot in front of our school boards for immediate response. They put an offer on the table in mid-December and have basically said we will give you money to build a new school, but you must put forth a plan and have it approved by April. Perhaps there are cost savings over future generations of combining three schools, but ultimately the goal of our schools should be producing responsible, caring, productive citizens every generation. Our plan to combine three schools seems extreme. We will have portables at both St. John and the new Ascension foreseeably for the

next ten years. All of our children will have graduated after being crammed into an undersized school for the population, not ideal learning conditions for anyone. Given time and the Ministry's help, could we not conceive of a plan that would combine two under-capacity schools into one operating at full capacity with some gentle renovation. Our schools were built to hold at least 400 I assume, and as we are operating at 54% wouldn't it be smarter to combine two schools to capacity, instead of forcing three into an over-crowded situation, leading to my next issue of location choice.

Choosing a site for a mega school on a very busy street next door to a high school leads to worries for many parents. Teen drivers whipping out of parking lots. Busy street to cross. Exposure to groups of teens loitering. I have two teens. They are not always mindful of the little ones around them, nature of their egocentric age. I don't feel this location is best suited despite having the largest lot size. St. Patrick has a lot almost as large and is housed in a lovely residential green space beside a church, in addition to a recent renovation. Surely with an inventive plan by our talented planning department St. Patrick could have been a viable option to at least double up two schools. Selling Ascension's lot with prime real estate would generate funds. Then, perhaps St. Paul could have assumed St. Raphael or vice versa given careful planning and renovation that would cost less in the long run than starting a new school from scratch.

We live exactly in the middle of the two proposed sites. 4.08 km to Ascension, 4.28 km to St. John. This leaves south Central Burlington with an 8 km stretch without a Catholic elementary school. This is unacceptable. This leaves our child who enjoys riding his bike in the fall and spring with no alternative but to be the first child picked up by a bus whichever school he attends, and I am sure a 30 minute bus ride both ways every day. This puts our real estate growth at risk as well. Catholic families will not choose to move to South Burlington if there isn't a community school to choose. We have all chosen to live in South Burlington, away from the busy neighbourhoods of the Orchard and Millcroft for a reason. We value our mature lots and quieter schools. Many of us chose to stay where we have grown up so our children can attend the same schools we attended, continuing to enjoy the tight knit community of St. Raphael's. The choice to close schools with churches in favour of a lot without a church is not promoting the triangle between home, school and parish. The argument that Catholic schools haven't been built beside a church since the '70's only suggests to me that lots weren't available. It seems very short sighted to turn down lots with existing churches, given the current political climate threatening our Catholic system.



23d ❤️ 1

Thankyou very much for your thoughtful commentary. You have nailed it! I really hope the HCDSB listens to us.



23d ❤️ 4

kpriestner you really hit the nail on the head with everything you said!

Getting rid of St.Raph's and building a mega school will destroy the tight-knit community. I love that the principal literally knows all the kids, and that the teachers do as well! In a mega school that won't happen. Bigger is not always better. I really like the idea of combining TWO schools only, rather than a mega school, and of not having to send my kids to a school in the less-than-ideal location of Ascension.



13d

What is the average % of students that qualify for the bus at any given school in Halton Catholic? (Proposed plan indicates that at the new Ascension site, 49%, or almost half the school popl'n qualifies for the bus).



12d ❤️ 6

I would just like to respond to the Modified Accommodation Review meeting held for South East Burlington last evening at Assumption Catholic Secondary School. I am a mother of three (2 of which are at St. Raphael currently in Grade 8 and Grade 1, with the oldest having graduated last year). My husband and myself both attended St. Raphael Elementary and all of our immediate and extended families have had their sacraments at our parish. I am a Catholic taxpayer, and a Catholic Secondary

School teacher in Dufferin-Peel for the last 20 years.

I have my BA, BEd, MBA, and PQP Part One course so education is something I value tremendously.

I am disappointed with the choice to hold a modified review as opposed to a standard review. Yes, I realize we have met the three criteria (barely the 5 km stipulation) but as Mr. Overholt pointed out, our board has had these plans in the works for two years so there has been ample time to plan for having a full review. By not permitting a standard review (eliminating the need for one less formal community consultation meeting as well as eliminating the establishment of a Review Committee) there seems to be a lack of transparency and a feeling that everything has already been decided. The fact that there will never be a question and answer period frankly mocks the process, in turn, angering parents. Parents are only allowed to input concerns via an on-line blog and survey with little to no response to their individual concerns. People were speaking out in a rude, frustrated fashion while the board planner was allowed to make a presentation last night, but mostly because parents themselves are not being allowed a fair outlet to speak. And, in view of promoting a 21st century school, having us take notes on chart paper seemed like a juvenile exercise, perhaps a laptop or ipad could have been used to lend some professionalism to the situation and ensure all of our information could have been electronically captured and sent to whomever is reviewing this information

promptly. It was very limiting in the time permitted to accurately record people's sentiments. The next stage seems to be finding delegates to present to the board meeting. But, delegates must have their presentation approved prior to speaking? Why should the board be able to view the presenter's notes beforehand at a public meeting?

I would like to reiterate my concerns from last night and submit them in this email as I feel the scribe would have been unable to record all of my concerns in a timely fashion.

Starting at the beginning of the package provided to us to do our homework. I question the LTCP, exactly what were the long term student enrolment projections based on? I feel they are predictions based on the history of declining enrolment, but without concrete data from a census do we really forecast such a drastic decline? As families that have lived in these neighbourhoods for generations, I think we can all attest that many of these homes are occupied by an older generation that will inevitably be moving. We have all witnessed a turnover on our streets with young families slowly moving in. The last Census in 2011 was a "short" one, one that was voted against by the Canadian Catholic Council of Bishops at the time. A return to a "long" Census is happening this year, 2016. With our schools at approximately 80% capacity at the current time, do we really need to rush into amalgamating three schools into an overcrowded facility that ensures even our Kindergarten children will still be using portables in grade 8? This does

nothing to serve our current cohort of students, merely looks at cost savings for the board long term.

It was very disheartening that a grand total of 55 seconds of last night's meeting was spent on the issue of removing two schools from their churches. And, a slide was flipped over so quickly no one had a chance to read it. In view of the crisis in Catholic Education, a very small minute of lip service isn't going to cut it. OSSTF has been rumoured to be preparing a push for the amalgamation of public and catholic secondary schools, an age old contentious issue. And, the Ontario government had 1700 people respond to a recent survey that their number one priority in the upcoming budget is to look at eliminating the Catholic system. The fact that we are willing to close schools with a church is an optical nightmare for Catholic Education. And, when it comes to sacraments are the classes going to be divided so as to receive their sacrament at their home parish, seems very divisive. I didn't see a chapel mentioned anywhere in the building plan either. What is setting this school apart from a public school?

I think the piece of the report that offends me the most is the overlay of the cookie cutter new school footprint onto the St. Raphael and St. Patrick sites. Clearly the proposed plan would be impossible to use on those sites, it almost insults the intelligence that paper and coloured ink was wasted printing the layouts last night. Obviously any individual site would require its' own individual site plan addressing its' individual needs.

Looking at different options for the future of our schools doesn't seem to be offered to parents to review. Again, I question whether we are seriously facing a crisis that needs to be fixed immediately. Our schools are at 80% capacity. That means a loss of three teachers from having a full school. I can only speak for St. Raphael but our teachers are handling all the extracurricular activities with much success. Academically St. Raphael is the top rated school in the city, both public and Catholic, according to the Fraser Report of standardized test scores. Our sports teams are constantly in the city and board finals. Over the next few years, with the new Census in hand, can we not examine the possibility of combining two schools at a time? Given that St. Raphael has the smallest footprint, perhaps St. Raphael could attend St. Paul, enjoy the green space and the proximity to a Catholic Secondary School and the interaction with high school volunteers it could provide instead of being put into an overcrowded situation with portables and asphalt (the new plan seems to have even less grass than St. Raphael currently possesses along the back side of the school) and the new plan would have no liason with the public high school next door. Those children attending St. Paul could easily walk to St. Raphael's church for mass. Ascension could move into St. Pat's (who had a recent renovation), again enjoying green space, the church, the arena and the new plans for the lakeside area. St. John could look north and examine population of another aging neighbourhood at St. Mark's? By selling Ascension's large site on a major road. I am sure the

board could fund some renovation at St. Paul to accommodate the joining of two schools. These schools were built to house an optimal 300 – 400 students so combining two schools into one shouldn't be a hardship and will ensure that Catholic families still have neighbourhood schools within walking distance. The proposed plan would leave an 8 km stretch across South Burlington without a Catholic school option. This also affects our real estate value as Catholic families would not look to these neighbourhoods to purchase a home.

This proposed plan seems to hinge on pushing the benefits of extra-curricular programming. I find this difficult to believe. In a mega school, teachers will find it easier to be anonymous. Only one sports team will be in each league, so many children will be left out. Three times the number of children will try out for a team, eliminating many from participating in a sport that they may not have otherwise had the opportunity to play. In the current climate of electronic devices minimizing daily physical activity for our children, it seems a shame to limit them even more. Over half of this new school would be bussed, and studies show bussed students are less likely to be involved in extra-curricular activities as they must catch the bus home for they certainly cannot ride or walk over 4 km down a busy road.

I question the need for a daycare at our location. Even if the city pays for the build, it is using school board property and takes up a footprint on the property that could be green space for our kids and adds even more traffic congestion to a mega school

situation. Perhaps a community build with a library or recreational centre would be offer more value to our students.

The new school will be built for 648 students. Forecasting shows 733 students in 2017, not dropping to 646 until 2026. None of our children will be out of portables. The interior rooms of the school will be dedicated to specialty rooms (art, music, library, primary grades). So the majority of our children will be housed in portables every year. Not an ideal learning environment and a big time waster when students have to bundle up to go in to the school to use the facilities and distracting for others. Why put ourselves into an over populated situation for a decade when we can be slightly under capacity and then perhaps combine two schools at a time to come back up to a full house. And, the footprint provided shows the portables on the significant amount of asphalt with very little green space at the back of the yard.

I have concerns about the potential socialization issues that may occur with St. Patrick and Ascension merging next year and then adding St. Raphael into the mix a year later. Especially as we have a few grades with small numbers of girls, it may prove difficult to add a few girls into an existing larger group of girls.

This leads me to the problem I have with a mega school of 733 children. There are bound to be significantly more issues regarding bullying, social media issues. etc. It is far easier for children to fly

under the radar of teachers in a larger environment. With today's unique situation of cyberbullying, much of the hateful behavior happens in an on-line environment that school officials have difficulty policing. In an enormous school, there are just far more students to be involved.

Another issue is the bussing that all St. Raphael students will require. Again, in a generation that already does not get enough exercise, we are taking away their ability to ride their bikes or walk. My children enjoy riding the bike path to school together through the fall and spring. This will absolutely not be possible to the new school as the route would be along a very busy road with many intersections and the fact that New Street and Appleby will not have a crossing guard is ludicrous! In fact, we live over 4 km from each proposed location, smack dab in the middle of both proposed sites. Our youngest will be picked up first by the bus and the estimate of a 14 minute bus ride is also greatly underestimated. It takes at least 10 minutes to drive from our house to swimming lessons at Centennial Pool without traffic or stopping to pick up students. I would hazard a guess it will be closer to a 25 minute drive there and back each day. Studies have shown bussed students are less likely to be engaged in extra-curricular activities, report lower grades and poorer levels of fitness, participate in fewer social activities and have poorer study habits.

I also do not necessarily envision a reduction in split classes due to the capped class sizes. Numbers are

numbers and if there are extra students over the cap in both grades a split will be necessary. I do understand when there is a very under capacity situation that the split classes are a norm, but split classes exist everywhere and are a necessary evil of meeting our capped size classrooms.

The statement that it will be an easier transition to high school is ridiculous, can we not focus on what our children's needs are in elementary school right now. It is the responsibility of the Intermediate grade teachers to prepare our students properly for secondary school. I have no need for my Grade 1 student to be prepared for high school at this time.

Another concern to me is research based support that a larger school is better for students. I have searched for the last six weeks for some shred of empirical evidence and I have found nothing. Every single research study finds that smaller schools are better for children. They are safer – evidenced by research. They offer better teaching, resulting in higher academic performance (St. Raphael top ranked of all schools in Burlington). Students report feeling safer, attend more frequently, and are more attached to their schools. Bullying and violence decrease as students take ownership of themselves and others because of their familiarity with each other. Teachers report increased job satisfaction, feel more connected and committed, and demonstrate an increased sense of responsibility, again supported by research.

Yet another issue is the insert delivered to my

mailbox that the City of Burlington is putting money in to update the playgrounds at Ryerson and Tecumseh schools. Why can't our board come to an arrangement with the city as well, that benefits our parks and playgrounds? The fact that our children cannot play in Strathcona park (as we did when we attended St. Raphael's) is absurd. Is this a problem with the city, or a problem with our church parking lot. An attempt to fix the playground situation by rejigging the parking lot and playground should have been attempted years ago.

And, finally location is troubling for most parents. A proximity to a public high school with beginning drivers. A very busy road without appropriate stop lights and crossing guards. An over-populated parking lot, as most parents may choose to drive their children over an extended bus ride.

In conclusion, I am afraid that at the heart of this matter Catholic Education is being threatened by means of the easy disregard to close schools with churches, as well as the potential loss of Catholic taxpayers due to many families considering a switch to a neighbourhood public school as frankly our family is considering at this point. Maybe our school board needs to take ownership, be forward thinking and rejuvenate our small neighbourhood schools, taking a stand against the ministry's drive to create mega schools that seem to have no empirical shred of evidence that they serve students better.

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12d 5

Spot on points. Also in follow-up to the parent meeting last night – I would like to know from the Board why only half of the Trustees were present and not all Trustees? Surely, when being in the position to vote on an item like amalgamating schools – even if those schools are not in your ward – an elected Trustee would feel compelled to at least come and observe the general process and the reactions of parents in the room. We are the ones after all who ultimately elect the Trustees. It would be nice to feel we're being represented fully by the ENTIRE Board. It should be MANDATORY for all Trustees to be present at any and all public meetings regarding these amalgamations.



12d 1

Thank you [redacted]. You have detailed much important evidence and have listed all my concerns in a salient fashion. I too felt it misleading to say there would not be splits. Ridiculous. A cap is a cap and all provincial boards act in a similar fashion, maximizing that cap to save on salaried teachers. The issue of extra curricular was dangled again last night and I concur that bigger is not better. More kids trying out for one team. Parents don't see that side of teacher/coaching which I do, as a High school teacher in the York Catholic board. Kids who try out fir fun get cut and soon feel that because they aren't as good as the rep players they may as well not bother with anything physical. It is such a blow to their self esteem. In addition, I want my son to walk or ride as well, as my daughter did when she

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attended St. Raphaels. I also wonder about this declining enrollment #s. Especially when at our school, the board has artificially created this decline by offering French emersion in north Burlington. I feel issues of parent drop off and traffic patterns have not been addressed or fully admitted. This is smoke and mirrors. Maybe they really do want to force us to choose the public system. So their over enrolled new school will end up being under capacity as well. What a pity. Last night was a farcical show pretending to be a public forum.



12d 1

How do we get a group of like minded St. Raphael parents together? Seems St. Paul and St. Pat have already done so



HCDSB-PAR Admin 12d

We thank you for your time and patience as we are in the process of reviewing all questions and responding to feedback provided at the Community Consultation Meeting for Burlington Southeast, as well as the online forum. We will be sharing all your questions, concerns and comments with Trustees before they reach any decision.



12d 1

But when do we get any direct answers to our questions?



12d

agreed. I left many questions on the wall sheets and

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did so really knowing that in all likelihood they would not be answered publicly. You know, like they could have been had the Board decided to have the Trustees at the mic along with Mr. Overholt and actually ANSWER questions during the event.



12d 1

The board seem to be evasive and the questions seem to cut and past and carry no real level of reponse



HCDSB-PAR Admin 11d

Staff are in the process of collating all of the questions received and we will be sharing the responses early next week. Please know that we will be taking your feedback into consideration. Thanks again for your patience and understanding as we complete this process.



11d 1

Why the cut and paste answers – when a parent takes time to write out a researched respectful query and response through the encourage forum – we get a what is seen a spam response – given we had less then 60 days and less then 35 left our patience and understanding are limited given the some of the data, reports and decisions are nearly a year old – some of the engagement could have started last school year when the board was under financial pressure to balance the budget

11d 1

When and where will it be posted – one feels like

<https://muut.com/burlington-southeast-mpar>

79/102

16/03/2016

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When and where will it be posted – one feels like one is being sold a bill of goods without all the data

10d 1

The future of Catholic education in South East Burlington is in doubt – trying to get the impact trustee's involved is difficult and I would challenge the decision makers at the board even have kids that are impact- if enacted my children will not be continuing in Catholic education



10d 1

Facebook: Save St. Paul Catholic Elementary School and Save St. Raphael Catholic Elementary School



9d

A gentle (but very important) reminder to those parents who are in support of this opportunity of a new school in SE Burlington. This tremendous opportunity is not only for our children, but also for generations to come. We are so blessed to be presented with this opportunity, and our Trustees need to hear our appreciation and support. Please remember to send in your supportive feedback to Trustees. If you don't, how will they know there are supporters too? (we are hearing a lot from people who don't, and the Trustees NEED to hear true representation of the community). Please take 2 minutes out of your day, and write a quick email to our trustees if you are in support. Thank you kindly.

<https://muut.com/burlington-southeast-mpar>

80/102

9d

Halton Catholic School Board: Do you own a part of the land surrounding the Gary Allen High School Site on New Street? (It was confirmed to us tonight, by a very credible source who works at the City of Burlington, that you in fact do).



9d ❤️ 1

Would it not be valuable information for the trustees to know how many parents are in favour of the proposal and how many are not? Despite the fact that we really have little to do with the decision making process I would think trustees would like to know how families in their constituency are feeling. I would like to know as well. I would certainly back off if the majority of our parents felt this was a good move and consider sending our son to a close by public school instead.



8d

I agree. It is only a small group who are writing. To the trustees, can you have your office do phone calls to your constituents? This way you would have a truer read of your voter's wishes. Also, can the board official manning this answer a direct question as to whether it is to late to change this application? Is it possible to change the location? Etc. Or is the Feb. Deadline as irreversible as it sounds. Are our of our ramblings here for nought? It certainly appears so. I too will really have to think of the public board if this goes through

Reply...



9d in St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School ❤️ 3

Serious Problem With Accommodation Review

On Wednesday, March 3, 2016, the Board held a meeting at Assumption High School, which was characterized as a "public consultation of the stakeholders," but no actual consultation took place. Instead, a detailed plan was presented for the construction of a new super-school on the site of Ascension elementary school, which would absorb the students currently attending St. Raphael, St. Patrick, and St. Paul schools. It was claimed that the Ascension site is the most "feasible" for the consolidation. Several justifications for and supposed benefits of the new school were offered by the Board:

1. Schools in in our district have been experiencing declining student enrolment over the last several years and according to the Board, "this decline is forecasted to continue" at least until 2025, but no details were given as to how the numbers were projected. If one looks at the current trend in the area, it is evident that older are residents are moving out and younger ones are moving in, a trend which Councillor Jack Dennison also noted in the Thursday,

March 3 edition of the Burlington Post 

March 3 edition of the Burlington Post (<http://www.burlingtonpost.ca/2016/03/03/halton-catholic-schools-consolidation/>)
edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/.../launch.aspx...).

2. The Board is trying to take advantage of funding available from the ministry of education for consolidation projects. Its consolidation plan entails shutting down three schools that are adjacent to churches. In a document entitled "168 Years of Success: Ontario's Catholic Schools" (www.hcdsb.org/.../ntarioCatholicSchools.pdf), Paula Dawson, Director of the Halton Catholic District School Board, states: "In recent years there has been growing discussion around the funding of faith-based education. Despite its long-standing history of academic excellence and contributions to Ontario society, the funding of Catholic education has been drawn into this debate. The 2007 Ontario election campaign was a particular focal point, in some areas reinvigorating the efforts of interest groups that want to end public funding for Catholic schools in Ontario. . . . It is important to be vigilant and to refute these renewed attacks."

In light of these remarks, we must all ask ourselves where is the vigilance in taking school communities away from their parishes? Mass celebrated in a school gymnasium is not the same as Mass celebrated in the church. Is a modern school building more important than proximity to our centres of worship – the reason that a separate Catholic education system even exists at all?

Under the planned consolidation many more children

will require transportation that they do not currently need, and there are safety issues associated with locating the new school on a busy artery like New Street. Many ratepayers who want a school within walking distance of their homes have publicly stated that they will remove their children and their tax dollars from the Catholic system. Thus begins the demise of Catholic education in Ontario.

It is a very poor vigilance to call for the refutation of those who wish to dismantle the Catholic education system while establishing the very circumstances in which such dismantling is most easily and quietly accomplished.

3. The Board wants to provide a "21st century learning experience" to students without being overly specific about what that means and why it cannot be accomplished within existing buildings. If a "21st century learning experience" entails technology such as computers, wi-fi, and Smartboards, there is actually nothing to prevent the installation of the necessary equipment in existing schools. Indeed, some classrooms in St. Raphael school already have smartboards, classrooms have ipads which means there is w-fi available, and there is a functioning computer lab.

Mention was made of features like music and science rooms and a library. However, it was never explicitly indicated that the music and science rooms would be dedicated rooms with appropriate staff and equipment. Many schools in the Board have "science" and "music" rooms which are in fact used

as regular intermediate classrooms. Primary and junior students never get to use these rooms for their intended purpose.

The Board's first "Consultation" on March 2 did not allow any opportunity for parents to pose questions or to suggest alternatives to the Board's consolidation plan, such as renovating existing schools, or offering French Immersion to fill up empty spaces. It is abundantly clear that the Board has already made a decision to consolidate schools since it already has building permits and only invited input on three questions which they provided—all of them centred on the Board's proposal, none asking for alternatives. When attempts were made by parents to raise questions or offer suggestions, they were flatly ignored. Indeed, they were warned beforehand that the questions would not be accepted from the floor. How exactly is this a consultation? Even people not directly involved can see the hypocrisy of using this term to describe what went on at the meeting. When Kathy Yanchus reported on the meeting in the March 4, 2016 edition of the Burlington Post (<http://www.burlingtonpost.ca/2016/03/04/halton-catholic-school-board-consultation/>), she made the decision to describe it as a 'consultation' (within single quotation marks). If she had believed it to be a true consultation the quotation marks would have been omitted.

The Board attempted to completely control the meeting not only by refusing to answer questions—even when they were shouted out by concerned parents—but by the very arrangement of the room.

Instead of rows of seating as one might expect in a true consultation, attendees were divided into groups of ten seated around tables. This had the dual effect of breaking up larger groups that might have had a stronger collective will to openly challenge the claims from the podium and to emphasize authority of the Board. Parents were cast as children in the role of students at their desks, there to learn from the educators. Just to be on the safe side, the Board also had members patrolling the rows between the desks to keep the more vocal parents in check.

Unfortunately, the Halton District School Board has a history of highhanded behaviour towards parents at St. Raphael and no doubt other schools. When uniforms were first proposed for St. Raphael in 2010 the vote did not pass, but when the proposal was revisited in 2014 the number for a quorum was reduced so that it would pass.

Setting aside the strong impression of contempt created by all of this, it should be a cause of real concern for anyone (inside our outside of the Catholic education system) who believes in democratic processes and the idea that elected officials, like School Trustees, should represent the will of the people who elected them and not dictate to them once they are in office. If it is acceptable for school boards to simply change the rules and silence opposition in order to achieve their own goals, why not others? One day more than a few schools could be at stake. This is a very dangerous road for all of us to go down. Even ignoring the danger, we must

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ask ourselves how the actions of the Halton Catholic School Board can be squared with its stated aim of pursuing “education based on the true model of moral character, Jesus Christ. By inculcating gospel values into all of our pursuits, we work for the highest ideal of human character.” (schools.hcdsb.org/.../FocusOnFaith.aspx)

Reply...



9d in Ascension Catholic Elementary School ❤️ 2

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<https://muut.com/burlington-southeast-mpar>

87/102

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All posts | Halton Catholic MPAR

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88/102

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Reply...



HCDSB-PAR Admin 7w in **General Discussion – Burlington Southeast PAR** 5 1

Burlington Southeast QEW Pupil Accommodation Review

On January 19, 2016, the Board approved the initiation of the Burlington Southeast QEW Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR), as it relates to the following schools:

Ascension Catholic Elementary School (bit.ly/AscensionBurlington)

St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School (bit.ly/StPatrickBurlington)

bit.ly/StPatrickBurlington

St. Raphael Catholic Elementary School (📍)

bit.ly/StRaphaelBurlington

For more information about the PAR process, please visit our website: (📍 bit.ly/BurlingtonSoutheast-PAR)

Parents and members of the community can share their opinions and provide their comments below, and are also welcome to attend the **Community Consultation Meeting**, which will take place on: Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at Assumption Catholic Secondary School, at 7:00 p.m.

[Register for the Consultation Meeting here:] (✖ survey.hcdsb.org/2016MPAR.aspx)



27d ❤️ 4

Has any sort of communication been sent out to all residences in the areas affected by this proposed change? I have yet to see anything in my mailbox and fear that only those with connections to the school are providing input. As a resident next to or near one of the schools in question I feel they too should have a say in what happens in their neighbourhood. Closing schools, building bigger ones or selling property near residences will also affect people who do not have children in the education system and they should have a say and be informed on decisions being made.



HCDSB-PAR Admin 12d

Great question. Community updates were sent out in January, 2016 to residents in the vicinity of the

affected neighbourhoods. These Community Update letters included information about the decision made by HCDSB to undertake a Pupil Accommodation Review Process for several schools, a link for more information on our website, as well as an invitation to attend a Community Consultation Meeting in March, 2016.

Our public HCDSB website provides background information, reports, as well as various ways to submit feedback online, and encourages members of our community to register for the Community Consultation Meetings (open to the public).



11d ❤️ 1

Residents in the Ascension area did not receive the communication noted in the comments by HCDSB



9d

Residents in the St. Patrick area also did not receive the communication noted in the comments by HCDSB . Can you please indicate which postal codes would've received the letter and provide a copy?



9d

A gentle (but very important) reminder to those parents who are in support of this opportunity of a new school in SE Burlington. This tremendous opportunity is not only for our children, but also for generations to come. We are so blessed to be presented with this opportunity and our Trustees

presented with this opportunity, and our trustees need to hear our appreciation and support. Please remember to send in your supportive feedback to Trustees. If you don't, how will they know there are supporters too? (we are hearing a lot from people who don't, and the Trustees NEED to hear true representation of the community). Please take 2 minutes out of your day, and write a quick email to our trustees if you are in support. Thank you kindly.

Reply...



12d in General Discussion – Burlington Southeast PAR

Points to Consider

How is full day kindergarden being accounted for:

How is school council money being account and divided during the merge

Schools are up for uniform votes – under the board poilcy – there needs to be a new vote

Do we need to buy new uniforms for the new school – what happens the the expensive McCarthy uniforms that we have already purchased

What happened to specialized education and ILP – how will this be accounted for during the merge

What commitment to clubs and teams are there during the merge – does everything a school has worked for gone

Reply...



12d in General Discussion – Burlington Southeast PAR

1 2

Is Engagement Authentic

Having read through the reports, attending the 1 meeting allowed – it would appear that this engagement is less then authentic – in a date of some of the reports being over 1 year old – parents where not formally engaged with for less then 90 days. The board speaks of no decision but one cannot help why the engagement is they are pursing the funding – why were not parents and stakeholder engaged to ask – if this was the right course of action.

I am of the opinion the board has a predetermined solution and is looking for funding – my question simply – why ask us if you have already made the decision.

Comments from the board indicated that the deciding factor is – Will the proposal be funded – is this deciding factor – the engagement is more for show then for dialog.



12d 1

It certainly does feel, in spite of comments to the contrary, that the Board – and more importantly the trustees – have effectively decided what to do and

are simply going through the motions that they are required to go through under the modified review process.

I'd like to feel differently about this, but in the language used throughout the meeting and in correspondence that I have received directly, the general tone sure seems to be this is the best course of action and we're not considering anything else. Which to me is short-sighted.

I get that there are millions of dollars being dangled in front of the Board to make this capital decision. I don't think too many families would dispute that having the province fund a new build – OR A RENO – would help out tax base locally (ignoring the fact that any money the province spends in part came from Burlington/Halton taxpayers).

HOWEVER, that doesn't change the fact that this review process seems unnecessarily rushed. Especially in light of the fact that – at a minimum – the long-term capital plan has been around for 3 years. IF the Board could see the writing on the wall with respect to needing to amalgamate schools, why did then not engage parents and the community immediately to begin a process to find the BEST solution. Not just a solution to fit their "model" school onto the most accommodating lot.

Why, in the presentation this week was there no real acknowledgement from either presenter that there may actually be some things that are NOT ideal about the plan? Why was there no ability to publicly

ask the senior staff (and the few Trustees who actually bothered to show up) about other possible solutions they had been investigating internally (if any).

This is all to go back to the feeling that this process, is simply that for the Board. This forum, the survey (which in my opinion was a joke – there was really NO method of fully voicing opposition to the plan), the parents meetings (where NO questions are able to be publicly asked and answered) – all feel like check-boxes being ticked off. I hate to feel cynical about out elected representatives, who I'm certain do have good intentions in what they do, say and decide – HOWEVER, the optics of this entire process from the top down suck. Sorry Board. Sorry Trustees. This process sucks.

Reply...



12d in Ascension Catholic Elementary School

No Bus Accounting



HCDSB-PAR Admin 7w in General Discussion – Burlington Southeast PAR

Rules of Conduct for Online Forums

From time to time, we may establish online forums to encourage parents, staff and members of our

community to share their comments and ask questions on a particular matter. For more information, please visit our [Social Media Guidelines](#).

Appropriate Language: Please avoid personal attacks, slurs, and profanity in your activities on the forum.

Confidentiality: Please do not post anything on the forum that you do not want the world to see. You should not post personally identifiable information (such as your child's name, address, telephone number, etc.), or other confidential information.

Basic Rules:

- **Please treat all other participants in the forum with respect.** Do not use the forum to threaten, harass, demean or insult other users. Remember that other participants are members of your community.
- Do not use the forum to spam others. Spam includes sending identical and irrelevant or unsolicited submissions to many different users, and includes misrepresenting the source of anything you post.
- Do not use the forum to link to external sites that violate these Rules of Conduct.
- Information posted may be collected for the sole purpose of informing the Halton Catholic District School Board and its staff on a particular decision or matter.

- Any personal information will not be shared in any public reports or documents.

Please be advised that our Board has the right to remove and/or report any of the following:

- Comments/posts that do not comply with our mission, vision, and values.
- Comments/posts that violate the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- Comments/posts that are confidential in nature or offer personal and/or financial information.
- Comments/posts that are derogatory, abusive, demeaning, slanderous, hateful, discriminatory and/or racist or in any way insinuate cyber bullying.
- Spam, solicitations or advertisements.
- Any comments/posts that suggest illegal behaviour.

Please review the above information before participating in any online interactions.

Reply...



HCDSB-PAR Admin 7w in **Ascension Catholic Elementary School**


**Burlington Southeast
QEW Pupil
Accommodation Review
(Ascension)**

On January 19, 2016, the Board approved the initiation of the Burlington Southeast QEW Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR), as it relates to the following schools:


Ascension Catholic Elementary School

St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School

St. Raphael Catholic Elementary School

For more information about the PAR process, please visit our website: ( bit.ly/BurlingtonSoutheast-PAR)

Parents and members of the community can share their opinions and provide their comments below, and are also welcome to attend the **Community Consultation Meeting**, which will take place on: Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at Assumption Catholic Secondary School, at 7:00 p.m.

[Register for the Consultation Meeting here:] ( survey.hcdsb.org/2016MPAR.aspx)

Reply...



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southeast QEW School Project**

APPENDIX C



2015-16 Pupil Accommodation Reviews

Online Community Feedback

Prepared by:
Research & Development Services
3/18/2016

For More Information, please contact:
Candace Rempel, MA, *Research Officer*

2015-16 Pupil Accommodation Reviews

Summary of Online Community Feedback

Prior to and following the individual Community Consultation Meetings held March 2, 3, 7, and 8 at HCDSB secondary schools, parents, students, staff, community and parish members were provided with an opportunity to submit their feedback about the proposed Pupil Accommodation Reviews via HCDSB's online survey system. The online feedback collection form remained open for parent responses from Wednesday February 17, 2016 until Friday March 11, 2016. This report provides a summary of the online responses received.

Online Pupil Accommodation Review Survey Response Breakdown

- 320 feedback forms were received
 - 123 forms were completed for the Burlington Southeast of QEW Review
 - 51 forms were completed for the Georgetown Review
 - 58 forms were completed for the Oakville South Review
 - 88 forms were completed for the Burlington Southwest of the QEW Review

The following table displays the number of feedback forms that were completed for each of the schools affected in the Pupil Accommodation Review. The feedback forms where respondents did not identify the school are reported as Blank.

Burlington Southeast	#	Georgetown	#
Ascension	28	Holy Cross	24
St. Patrick	34	St. Francis of Assissi	26
St. Raphael	40	Blank	1
Blank	21		
TOTAL	123	TOTAL	51

Oakville South	#	Burlington Southwest	#
St. Dominic	23	St. John	24
St. James	6	St. Paul	50
St. Joseph (Oakville)	27	Blank	14
Blank	2		
TOTAL	58	TOTAL	88

Support for the Pupil Accommodation Review

In some cases (not all), it was difficult to discern whether the respondent supported the Pupil Accommodation Review plan prepared by the Board. While some respondents directly communicated that they "Loved it" or "Liked nothing about it", Research and Development Services acknowledged that the majority of respondents were responding to the three questions posed – identifying what they liked, challenges that they foresaw, and suggestions for improvement.

In order to paint a picture of the nature of the comments received, Research and Development Services coded and reported the percentage of respondents who provided a constructive comment

for each of the three questions. These percentages are broken down by school, to capture patterns that exist among school communities. Percentages are reported for groups of 15 or more.

Burlington Southeast of the QEW

School (forms received)	Question 1 What do you like best...?	Question 2 What are the challenges you see...?	Question 3 Do you have any suggestions to improve the plan?
Ascension (28)	24 (85.7%)	25 (89.3%)	17 (60.7%)
St. Patrick (34)	14 (41.2%)	30 (88.2%)	27 (79.4%)
St. Raphael (40)	20 (50%)	37 (92.5%)	31 (77.5%)
Blank (21)	7 (33.3%)	19 (90.5%)	17 (81%)

Georgetown

School (forms received)	Question 1 What do you like best...?	Question 2 What are the challenges you see...?	Question 3 Do you have any suggestions to improve the plan?
Holy Cross (24)	24 (91.7%)	19 (79.2%)	15 (62.5%)
St. Francis (26)	17 (65.4%)	21 (80.8%)	12 (46.2%)
Blank (1)		1	1

Oakville South

School (forms received)	Question 1 What do you like best...?	Question 2 What are the challenges you see...?	Question 3 Do you have any suggestions to improve the plan?
St. Dominic (23)	16 (69.6%)	16 (69.6%)	13 (56.5%)
St. James (6)	3	5	4
St. Joseph (27)	21 (77.8%)	24 (88.9%)	15 (55.5%)
Blank (2)	1	2	1

Burlington Southwest of the QEW

School (forms received)	Question 1 What do you like best...?	Question 2 What are the challenges you see...?	Question 3 Do you have any suggestions to improve the plan?
St. John (24)	12 (50%)	23 (95.8%)	18 (75%)
St. Paul (50)	11 (22%)	43 (86%)	41 (82%)
Blank (14)	2	10	8

Low Response

Although the feedback received was from communities with some lower enrollment schools, the amount of feedback that was received was lower than anticipated. Given that the Board of Trustees would be making decisions about the most appropriate pupil accommodation arrangements for the HCDSB (which may lead to school consolidations and/or closures) after they had the opportunity to read and reflect on the comments provided by the community, the Research

Department predicted a higher response for the online survey. The online feedback form was open to all members of each community. The form could be accessed via the Board's public website, where all of the information for the PARs was located. The following possible explanations for this phenomenon are outlined below.

Multiple Opportunities to Provide Feedback

Parents, students, staff, community and parish members were provided with various outlets to provide feedback on the proposed plan affecting their community. Interested stakeholders could submit input on the plan: 1. at the Community Consultation; 2. in the online discussion forum; 3. and through the Online Survey System. Further, 4. letters and emails received by the Board were also reviewed and documented in the reports. It is possible that the lower than expected response to the online feedback form is a result of community members choosing an alternate way to submit their input on the proposed plan.

Sampling and Non-response

The online feedback form, or survey, allowed for the equal opportunity for all interested parties, regardless of opinion to participate in and provide their concerns – meaning it was fair and open to all. This means that the vast majority of individuals who had an opportunity to weigh in on the survey did not participate in the survey when they had the opportunity to do so. The non-response rate does demonstrate a bias, in that, parties who were upset or disagreed with the proposal tended to respond, and this reflects the reality that the majority of people did not disagree or have an issue with the proposal. The survey, by its very nature, attracted the voice of the individuals who are in disagreement with the proposal. If the small sample that responded, demonstrated a more evenly distributed opinion, then a larger sample would be required. The fact that in some schools/communities it was almost entirely skewed towards a negative opinion means that the survey was only of interest to that particular party. A larger sample would not provide a more "balanced view" because the nature of the survey itself.

According to Groves (2006, p. 664), "...positive or negative affect toward the sponsor of the survey may be related to the survey variables measured. *In at least some surveys, these influences on survey participation are correlated with the variables of interest in the survey*" (emphasis added).¹ The practitioner must decide whether this is likely to be the case and whether, therefore, differential effort should be assigned to the groups with low base propensities."

Thus, the those who responded had a high affective motivation for responding. Those that did not respond are likely (and we cannot say for certain in any circumstance) did not have an interest in the survey or the questions. You could extrapolate from this that the low and negative response rate reflected the population interest, and the majority of people were not interested the survey or the issue. Therefore, it may be the case that the non-respondents are at the least neutral, unaffected or detached from the issue (i.e., not against it).

¹ Groves, R. M. (2006). Nonresponse rates and nonresponsive bias in household surveys. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 70(5), 646-675.

Burlington Southeast of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review (affecting Ascension, St. Patrick and St. Raphael Schools)

Themes Present in Online Community Feedback Form – by School

Following the Community Consultation Meeting held Wednesday March 2, 2016 at Assumption Secondary School, current and future parents, students, staff members, and parish members impacted by the consolidation proposals were provided with an opportunity to submit their feedback about the proposed boundary reviews via HCDSB's online survey system. The online feedback collection form remained open for community feedback from Wednesday February 17, 2016 until Friday March 11, 2016. This report provides a summary of the online responses received for the Burlington Southeast Pupil Accommodation Review and an analysis of themes observed in the responses received for the Ascension, St. Patrick, and St. Raphael school communities.

Ascension School

Online Feedback Form Response

- A total of 123 feedback forms were received for the Burlington Southeast PAR
- 28 of the Southeast Burlington feedback forms (22.8%) were received from Ascension School
 - All of the forms received (100%) were from current Ascension parents/guardians

Question 1: What do you like best about the proposed plan?

Three emerging themes were identified in the 24 responses (85.7%) that identified something that the respondent liked about the proposed plan. The themes are listed below (largest to least):

1. **Benefits of a New School:** The majority of the respondents stated that a new school will provide the benefits of 21st Century learning with an updated school with the most advanced technology, will better support French Immersion, arts/sports and music programming, provide better resources and better community use.
2. **Size of Classes & Student Population:** Several parents liked the fact that a new school will mean less split classes and that a larger school will offer a more diverse population of student to support social development opportunities.
3. **Nothing:** Several parents stated that they did not like anything about the new plan.

Example:

"I think there is lots of opportunity in moving to a new, larger facility including better instruction, fewer split classes, better equipment, better learning environment. Also, I like the selection of the Ascension site not only because it's

closest to our home but also because of the space which allows for the construction of an ideal learning environment. At the community session this evening there were concerns raised about the safety of the ascension site, specifically the traffic along new street. Although new street is busier than where St. Patrick's is currently located, parents of kids at St. Patrick's forget the fact that our kids would also have to cross the busy street if the location was changed. I have to trust that the school will be built to protect the kids from traffic. This could be further improved with traffic calming measures including moving the existing traffic light."

Question 2: What are the challenges you see with this plan?

The majority of respondents (25 or 89.3%) identified concerns that they had with the plan. The responses have been clustered in to the six themes that emerged:

1. **Transportation:** Most respondents were concerned around how busy the new proposed area was, and that with an increased student population, there would be even more congestion especially at drop-off and pick-up times. Several others were worried about bussing problems and parking at the school.
2. **Construction:** Many respondents were worried that the construction of the new school would not be completed in time, further exacerbating transition. Some people also expressed concerns around the use of portables.
3. **Loss of Church/Parish:** Several responses around the loss of their parish or church that was connected with the closing schools.
4. **Loss of "Small School Feel":** Several respondents on the survey felt that one larger school would affect the quality of the education provided, that students would no longer get as much individual attention, or that a large population would be difficult to manage.
5. **Stress and Inconvenience of Transition:** Several respondents spoke about how stressful the move will be on the students, the parents, teachers and administrators.
6. **Other:** There were individual concerns around possible property value effects, less green space available at Ascension, access to daycare, and concerns with buying new uniforms.

Example:

"One challenge is the fact that larger schools are not as conducive to student welfare as smaller schools. Right now, the Ascension community, as well as the other schools' communities are small; thus, students, teachers and admin team all know each other quite well, as do parents of students; behavioural issues are fewer and dealt with more quickly and efficiently, bullying isn't as much of an issue as it is in larger school populations and mental health issues amongst students are not as numerous. All this will change in a population of 600+ students and that is NOT a desirable outcome."

Question 3: Do you have any suggestions to improve the proposed plan?

Many respondents used those field to reiterate their concerns. However, of the 17 forms (60.7%) that included suggestions to improve the plan, constructive feedback was provided. There was only one major theme present: abandoning this plan, and closing other sites. Individual constructive suggestions that did not seem to cluster together in any way are listed below:

1. Be sure the construction of the new site is done on time.
2. Change the parking lot at Ascension so it exits west.
3. Broker a deal with Bateman and Centennial for some parking space
4. Eliminate the uniforms
5. Involve the students with the planning
6. Ensure connection with a Parish
7. Remove the daycare to allow more educational space
8. Ensure the best quality construction materials to prevent allergies with off-gassing.
9. Provide a summer-time celebration for the school communities involved so they can get to know each other
10. Ensure excellent support for staff and students affected by the transitions

St. Patrick School

Online Feedback Form Responses

- A total of 123 feedback forms were received for the Burlington Southeast Pupil Accommodation Review Online Feedback Form
- 34 of the Southeast Burlington feedback forms (27.6%) were received from St. Patrick School
 - 31 of the 34 forms received (91.2%) were from current St. Patrick parents/guardians
 - The remaining 3 forms (8.8%) were from future St. Patrick parents/guardians

Question 1: What do you like best about the proposed plan?

Less than half of the feedback forms received (14 or 41.2%) from St. Patrick's parents identified something that they liked best about the proposed plan. These parents talked about the benefits of a new school summarized under point 1 (below). The other prevalent theme for this question was disapproval of the plan (point 2).

1. Benefits of a New School: The majority of the respondents stated that a new school will provide the benefits of 21st Century learning with an updated school with the most advanced technology, will better support French Immersion, arts/sports and music programming, provide better resources and better community use.
2. Many respondents simply stated they did not like anything about the plan.

Example:

“New updated facilities, with better outdoor facilities, art, music & science classrooms.”

Question 2: What are the challenges you see with this plan?

The majority of forms received (30 or 88.2%) identified challenges that would result from the plan as proposed. These challenges can be summarized in the four themes below:

1. Location: The majority of the respondents in this survey were concerned with the busy location of Ascension. Respondents were concerned about the traffic and the safety of the students. Respondents who identified with St. Patrick school were also concerned about the proximity of the secondary school with Ascension. There were comments regarding the possible negative influence of the secondary students on the elementary students.
2. Loss of Parish/Church: The second most emergent theme was that respondents were upset with losing the connected Church or Parish. Respondents felt this would have an impact on the Catholicity of student education.
3. Loss of “small school feel”: Several respondents on the survey felt that one larger school would affect the quality of the education provided, that students would no longer get as much individual attention, or that a large population would be difficult to manage.
4. Other: Individually, responses included concerns around stress of the transition, construction being completed on time, wondering if a daycare was still necessary, the use of portals, the new school name, and wondering about possible increased competition for before and after care.

Example:

“Too many kids at St Patrick during construction. I do not like the Ascension school site. New Street is a busy road, and drop offs will be a challenge and I won't let my son walk to school until much older now that he has to cross such a busy road. Also, I do not like the fact that no church is beside the Ascension site.”

Question 3: Do you have any suggestions to improve the proposed plan?

Many respondents chose to reiterate their concerns in this section, but there were some discernable suggestions in the 27 forms (79.4%) that included feedback to this question. There was only one major theme, followed by a list of suggestions that did not seem to cluster together in any way. Many comments in this question involved the suggestion that the board should abandon this plan, and close other sites. A few others suggested rebuilding St. Patrick on the existing site.

There were a few suggestions that were constructive, they are:

- a) Move Ascension school to a new site
- b) Use Mohawk Park as a recreational space, perhaps part of the park could be donated
- c) Change drop off and pick up times to 8:45am, or an earlier start time
- d) Build a church at the St. Patrick site
- e) Ensure there are adequate bussing for students

- f) Provide increased support for students with the transition
- g) Ensure road safety
- h) Ensure the classes stay small

Example:

"I really think an emphasis on no bullying, being kind and listening to the kid's ideas can improve and can help them adjust. Giving them some control on event planning to get school spirit going when all kids are brought together, especially the shy kids."

St. Raphael School

Online Feedback Form Responses

- A total of 123 feedback forms were received for the Burlington Southeast Pupil Accommodation Review Online Feedback Form
- 40 of the Southeast Burlington feedback forms (32.5%) were received from St. Raphael School
 - 35 of the 40 forms received (87.5%) were from current St. Raphael parents/guardians
 - Two forms (5%) were completed by future St. Raphael parents/guardians
 - Two forms (5%) were completed by St. Raphael students
 - The remaining form (2.5%) was complete by a St. Raphael staff member

Question 1: What do you like best about the proposed plan?

Only 20 completed forms (50%) identified something that they 'like best about the proposed plan'. One major theme emerged from the comments of respondents that answered the question. It is the same comment as the other two schools in this area – Benefits of a New School: The majority of the respondents stated that a new school will provide the benefits of 21st Century learning with an updated school with the most advanced technology, will better support French Immersion, arts/sports and diversity of the student population. Other responses ignored the question and used this space to discuss what they did not like about the plan. These themes will be covered in Question 2.

Example:

"1/ Better socialization opportunities for children (My daughter has 26 children in her gr. 1 class at St Raph's. It includes 17 boys and 7 girls). This is no where near enough socialization with other girls for her duration at St Raph's. (Note: St. Raph's has only THREE girls in the entire grade 3 cohort too). 2/ Better opportunities for programs and extra-curricular. 3/ New modern facility with state of the art technology. 4/ My daughter's gr. 1 classroom at St Raph's does not meet Ministry of Education mandated cap class size of 20 students. (there is only 1 gr. 1 class).....the new school will help meet this capped class size for gr's 1-3. 5/ Grass/ green space opportunities (St Raph's has little to none). 6/ Safer

parking lot offering (St Raph's has had tragic accidents in the church parking lot with ambulance being called for medical attention to children being hit by cars)."

Question 2: What are the challenges you see with this plan?

The majority of respondents (37 or 92.5%) identified challenged that they saw with the proposed plan. These comments are grouped into the themes that emerged, and echo many of the same comments from St. Patrick respondents:

1. Location: The vast majority of the respondents in this survey were concerned with the busy location of Ascension. Respondents were concerned about the traffic and the safety of the students. Respondents who identified with St. Patrick school were also concerned about the proximity of the secondary school with Ascension. There were more comments from this school in particular regarding the possible negative influence of the secondary students on the elementary students. Respondents from this school were noticeably more vigorous and passionate in their responses in this theme.
2. Loss of Parish/Church: The second most emergent theme was that respondents were upset with losing the connected Church or Parish. Respondents felt this would have an impact on the Catholicity of student education.
3. Loss of "small school feel": Several respondents on the survey felt that one larger school would affect the quality of the education provided. Several respondents were upset the move to the new school would mean that they would no longer 'be the best' and that test scores would drop. There were concerns that students would no longer get as much individual attention, and that a large population would be difficult to manage.
4. Stress and Inconvenience of Transition: Several respondents spoke about how stressful the move will be on the students, the parents, teachers and administrators. Several parents worried about an increase in bullying, and the cost of new uniforms.
5. Other: Individual responses stated their concerns around property values, loss of green space, and increased competition for daycare spaces.

Example:

"The challenges with the plan are: 1. The population of Burlington is increasing and this includes south Burlington. I have moved in November 2015 to this area. I have 3 kids - only 1 enrolled right now with 2 more added next year. The plan is not considering this. 2. St. Raphaels is next to the church and provides significant interaction for students throughout their faith growth including confirmation (that St. Paul students also go to St. Raphaels parish). The plan has not considered this. 3. Ascension school is next to a public high school - Lord Elgin. Smoking, no dress code and being harassed and labelled as catholic kid is common (I attended Ascension as a child). No feeling of safety. The plan has totally not considered this. 4. Ascension is less than 1km from Oakville. It is very poorly situated and unsuitable for Burlington residents. The plan is accommodating Oakville -- NOT -- Burlington. 5. Ascension students would still need to go to St. Raphaels church for confirmation. The plan fails to include Church as part of

current plan. Remember that for hundreds of years, the Church was built FIRST, then came the school next to it. This is a huge step backwards. 6. Increase in bus transport costs and wasted time by parents and students will drive down catholic enrollment numbers. Your plan assumes that 2 schools closures = direct transfer of student to the new school is inaccurate. This can backfire to the point of completely DISINTEGRATING the catholic school system. Catholic parents will be putting their kids in a public system - Mark My Words. 7. St. Raphaels gets very high academic score against all schools. Why? Because good students and teachers equate to high academic standards -- NOT the age of a structure. Your plan makes on emphasis that the structure is not providing the deliverables that our kids need. That's rubbish. 8. Plan proposed was pre-meditated. Creating a 400 page document of the changes with zero input from the public does not reflect as transparent. The points listed above should have been considered before assembling such a plan - that now must be scrapped. This is probably the biggest beef that most parents have with the plan. 9. Statistics used do not take in to consideration the price of housing in south Burlington. Prices have escalated and have not undergone a market readjustment YET. The rest of Ontario and other provinces are already started. Once the adjustment occurs, more people will be able to afford a home in south Burlington. The plans graph uses an exponential decay. This means catholic schools will never rebound. Ouch. That is not realistic at all and I really feel bad that such poor data is now publically available to our Ontario School Minister who just may decide to pull the plug on support of the Catholic School System due to this poor statistics! You have seeded the devil with bad information. 10. If the bottom line is to drop overhead, then simply label it as that. St. Pauls should then be closed to reduce the cost of the principal, vice, secretary, basic operational overhead, cut out about 25 teacher salaries. The savings I humbly estimate to be 1.5 million year over year. Also add that if the land is sold, a single payout of 10 million (brick of the building would likely be reclaimed) plus the prime price of land in one of the highest real estate markets of Burlington could then be driven to still make upgrades to the remaining schools."

Question 3: Do you have any suggestions to improve the proposed plan?

There were 31 forms (77.5%) that included suggestions to improve the proposed plan. The emergent themes were clustered below:

1. Don't Close St. Raphael: The largest emergent theme based on many comments in this question involved the suggestion that the board should abandon this plan, and close other sites, or relocate to another site that was not Ascension.
2. Other: There were several respondents that stated they liked the new plan, several others suggested that the St. Raphael school be used strictly for French Immersion only or gifted students. There was a suggestion to bus students into St. Raphael's from other over-populated schools, or to close St. John's instead.

Example:

“Ensure there are strategies in place should the St. Raphael's students be the last ones to integrate; perhaps the "principal to be" of the new school, becomes St. Raphael's principal for the year prior.”

No School Disclosed

Online Feedback Form Response

- A total of 123 Feedback Forms were received for the Burlington Southeast PAR
- On 21 of the 123 (17.1%) feedback forms, no school was disclosed.
 - 9 of the 21 forms received (42.9%) were members of the affected community
 - 9 of the 21 forms received (42.9%) were from members of a Parish in an affected community
 - 2 of 21 forms (9.5%) were current parents/guardians of a PAR school
 - An additional form (4.7%) was received from respondent classified as ‘other’ – a crossing guard

There were a small sample of respondents who chose not to identify with a particular school. The responses and themes were identical to the other three schools. A few of the suggestions for the improvement of the plan were; to amalgamate the Catholic and Public bussing system, allow the students to wear their old uniforms for a while during the transition, renovate St. Patrick school instead of closing it, and to close Ascension.

Burlington Southeast of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

RESPONSE ID	WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT THE PROPOSED PLAN?	WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES YOU SEE WITH THIS PLAN?	DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE THE PROPOSED PLAN?
277648	I like to proactive plans. As all three schools shrink in size, the threat of closure is real. The proactive plan to combine the schools and build a 21st century school, allows the catholic board to stay strong in South East Burlington, rather than slowly shrink away is aging buildings.	The only piece I personally find challenging will be losing the Ascension name, although I agree it would be unfair for the other schools coming to the merger. Not being a "church" school will be difficult for many people.	I like the proposed plan. My xxx child is my last one at Ascension and is in grade xxx this year. I don't like the idea of the transition year. But have to accept the fact that it is necessary.
277463	That my daughter will still go to her same school...	How to accommodate 3 schools in one? The transition for this project must be a key feature -- please don't do this just to save money! Bussing, congestion at arrival and departure times... There's no next-door church to stay connected with the parish...	Honestly keep it the same OR Close Ascension and have Ascension students split between the two other schools that have churches. St. Patrick is ideal for the safe neighbourhood feel - New Street is so busy!! Could one mega school be at St. Patrick's?
265138	I think its a good plan..I think a new upgraded school is a great idea	wont be done on time, what school does my daughter go to in the interim and how inconvenient will it be - parents might not be happy with changes but I do understand the logic	I think it looks good for now - I will keep on top of it to keep myself informed
277668	Modernization of school(s).	Construction seems to always take longer than planned. Could you ensure construction time is minimized and on time? Could construction time be a part of the construction contract? We are also concerned about construction while students are present (if construction 'bleeds' into student enrollment at the new school).	Only to be sure construction is on time and safe for students.
277659	That the school remains in same spot as my child goes to Ascension	Bigger school bigger population. Losing that small community feel and relations with teaching staff and principal and secretary	I think eventually the schools will get more students as older people whose kids have moved out etc will start looking for smaller homes no stairs etc
260953	Hopefully more efficient building with more resources.	a school with so many students they may become lost in the system, small schools are more personal , is easy to know the staff and families that belong to it.	not at this time.
261052	A larger school. A new school with newer resources	New routine. Change for staff may add stress	

Burlington Southeast of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

261322	I am not in favour of the proposed plan or the temporary solution being proposed for Ascension students to be re-located for a year or more at St.Patricks.	Combining 3 schools is disruptive to the community, students, teachers and parents. This model would not benefit our children and could potentially hinder their grades, moving from an 18 student per class scenario to potentially up to 35 is not in their best interest. What happens when the elderly demogrpahic move out and leave Southeast Burlington? New young families will evenutally move in and with one Catholic school in the vicinity how will we accomodate them? What about our home values? With only one Catholic school in the area we may see the values of our homes drop?	I recommend only combining 2 schools if it is absolutely necessary. If St.Patrick's and Ascension students fall under the St.Patrick's church so it makes sense to combine them if a resolution is needed or for budgetary reasons. But amalgamating 3 schools is just chaotic and is not in the best interests of the students, parents and teachers.
287726	The elimination of split grade classes (I'm hoping...its been years since my son was in a single grade class), a new and modern facility, opportunity for my son to make new friends (more students does have its advantages), wise use of limited public funds/tax payers dollars.	Traffic flow and parking at Ascension. That's my only concern. Getting in and out of that parking lot is already an accident waiting to happen. With 3 times the traffic volume it will be a nightmare.	Consider building the new school at St. Pat's instead. If that's not feasible, insist that cars turning out of the Ascension parking lot can only turn right (go west). Also consider working with Bateman school and Centennial pool to somehow merge the 3 parking lots so the traffic flow in and out of these 3 facilities is as smooth as possible.
265037	Better facility bigger community with better programs to be offered. Larger and more diverse teacher Population.	None	Ditch the uniforms. :)
288975	State of the art facilities, makes sense overall.	Ensuring construction and timelines are met.	From my son: make the field smaller (you are already!); ensure a traffic light is installed at the entrance; it's already a great plan, hope it goes through.
261109	More students means less split classes. More modern up to date equipment.	Change in name meaning new uniforms. Transitioning process and changes when constructing new school. Iterim accomodations for school changes.	None right now.
288910	that the children can have access to a renovated facilities	the relocation of the children can be traumatic for them, new teachers, new facilities, new peers. Also, after the consolidation in one facility, it is going a be a big school with more students, this implies less attention for each student	Maybe, it could be better to re-build 2 schools instead one and move from 3 to 2 instead 3 to 1 and sale the remaining facility. In this way we will have 2 mid-size schools instead 1 big school. It is my opinion that a big school environment isn't good for elementary age children. For sure, the construction of the 2 schools have to be done by phases, ascension first and St. Raphael after
261133	Ascension is the location chosen for the new school.	Where the children will go to school while the new school is being built	

Burlington Southeast of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

276479	<p>I think there is lots of opportunity in moving to a new, larger facility including better instruction, fewer split classes, better equipment, better learning environment. Also, I like the selection of the ascension site not only because it's closest to our home but also because of the space which allows for the construction of an ideal learning environment. At the community session this evening there were concerns raised about the safety of the ascension site, specifically the traffic along new street. Although new street is busier than where St. Patrick's is currently located, parents of kids at St. Patrick's forget the fact that our kids would also have to cross the busy street if the location was changed. I have to trust that the school will be built to protect the kids from traffic. This could be further improved with traffic calming measures including moving the existing traffic light which.</p>	<p>the year of transition will be very difficult with one child going into grade xxx and another going into grade xxx. Also, it will be challenging to overcome the resistance of many parents who were quite vocal at today's community session with their displeasure. This is a very emotional issue for many.</p>	<p>There were lots of concerns about how quickly this was all happening. Although the money is certainly enticing, there is value in slowing things down a little bit too. Additionally, it would be a good idea to get the students involved in the planning and even the design of the new space.</p>
289140	<p>Absolutely nothing</p>	<p>The people who have planned this had no idea how unsafe it will be with a 600 plus students as well as 88 day care spots - the traffic at best is horrible presently with parents, buses and traffic from Bateman and Centennial Pool - how much land will be lost due to parking lots</p>	<p>Leaving St. Raphael's without a parish school - I feel cheated as my church had no youth engagement - after 50 plus years - the future of my church is in question - our own board is cutting off the youth connection to my church - not once has the board or staff consulted with my church or parish community</p>
261015	<p>Larger school, increased possibility of french immersion being offered at the school, better technology, new school will be located where Ascension is currently located.</p> <p>Comment 2: The improved and modern educational facility that my three daughters will be able to benefit from attending, which will be able to offer improved and more wide-ranging academic and extra-curricular opportunities for them.</p>	<p>Having to take children to another school while new school is being built, possible delays in construction.</p> <p>Comment 2: Overcoming the concerns of parents whose children will have to be bussed to the new and improved school.</p>	<p>Comment 2: My only suggestion is for the HCDSB to maintain their recommendation and not succumb to the interests of those parents whose students will have to be bussed.</p>

Burlington Southeast of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

290235	<p>new facility, opportunity for music, arts, and physical education program, staff support for co-planning and teaching, new library and resources</p>	<p>too many students, merging two parishes within one school, very small playground for three times the amount of students, adding a Daycare with excessive traffic and taking up space for parking, playground, accommodating the Peace Garden with far less space, trying to accomplish too much -focus on the school and not additional services, equity in access to daycare perhaps just merge St. Patrick's and Ascension</p>	<p>no Daycare to allow for more space in playground merge St. Patrick's and Ascension only less parking needed more playground smaller school community with two school populations merge St. Raphael's with another school experiencing declining enrollment do less to accomplish more with focus on quality</p>
261627	<p>Since my daughter goes to Ascension, I like the fact that Ascension is the proposed site for the combined schools.</p>	<p>One challenge is the fact that larger schools are not as conducive to student welfare as smaller schools. Right now, the Ascension community, as well as the other schools' communities are small; thus, students, teachers and admin team all know each other quite well, as do parents of students; behavioural issues are fewer and dealt with more quickly and efficiently, bullying isn't as much of an issue as it is in larger school populations and mental health issues amongst students are not as numerous. All this will change in a population of 600+ students and that is NOT a desirable outcome.</p>	<p>Yes, two smaller schools-- each of 300. Keep the character/names of two of the schools and build community from there.</p>
277672	<p>New school with more opportunities for learning and activities.</p> <p>Comment 2: More students and teachers at one location may mean more resources, etc. for kids.</p>	<p>Less of a small community. But this is outweighed by the advantages of a large school which I think are great.</p> <p>Comment 2: Transition year and going to a new school - My kid goes to ascension. When she goes to the transitional school, will she still be in the same class with the same kids? or will there be a great mixing of students from 3 schools, creating an entirely different set of classmates for her?</p>	<p>My suggestion would be to try and use the healthiest of materials to avoid as much off gassing.</p> <p>Comment 2: Building materials - The smell of a new building can show the amount of modern, chemically treated products used which are possibly and probably not so healthy. Among the new population of the future school some people will no doubt be more sensitive than others regarding this. Some suffer headaches, asthma reactions, allergy problems etc. For all the kids and staff this off-gasing of VOC's etc., from new products should be kept in mind and only building materials that have the best, and beyond health ratings should be used. (not just "meets standard" health ratings). The HCDB should demonstrate the greatest commitment to human health and lead the way in this regard by choosing a contractor capable of selecting the healthiest building materials available.</p>
265785	<p>We get a new, updated, school that offers more school programs.</p>	<p>Concern with sufficient space for before/after school daycare. Will there be more rooms and teachers available? This may be</p>	

Burlington Southeast of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

		mitigated by the new school location and bus times that allow for my children to ride the bus.	
261287	New school	How long to build a new school- realistic timeline? Portable classrooms Please don't split the kids up when relocating. Can an entire school fit into another?	Don't underestimate the time to build a new school
261270	I don't mind the plan. My only concern is that the churches may lose some student involvement which is an important faith aspect.	Where will the children go to school for the 2016/17 school year? I would like to see the children stay in the old Ascension school while the new one is being constructed. If the Ascension students will be placed at St Pat's for the year, will bussing be offered?	Perhaps a celebration for families of all schools involved to meet in the summer.
277680	The proposed new school looks wonderful - it would be nice to have an updated facility. Our son will be entering Grade xxx, so the size of the building and the population of the school shouldn't be a factor.	Having our students temporarily attend another school, most likely in portables. It seems that it would be challenging for the teachers to move their belongings twice. Hopefully there will be lots of support during the process.	Just that the students and especially the staff will need support throughout the process.
287702	Having a new facility according to 21st. century standards. However in order to have a more attractive school to everyone, French immersion would be fundamental. That would deter somehow parents who want to move their children from Catholic to Public schools.	That the time to build the new facility takes more than a year	French immersion for Ascension Catholic School, which will allow Ascension to be more attractive to parents and children. It is not only about improving infrastructure, but also to improve quality of education.
277671	Nothing	Inconsistency with my child's routine, waste of money in uniforms, going to school no where close to where we live ,	
261161	Nothing	Location. Location. Location. Size of school. Inconvenience for those unable to walk to school and more traffic for those having to drive to school and those in the area getting to work.	Keep Ascension as is and move St. Raphael to either Ascension or St. Patrick site.

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261570	<p>Nothing, I think St. Patrick should be removed from the proposed plan. Our location supports a safe, viable, walk-able, Catholic community. The building's FCI is the best out of all 3 schools and the community Real Estate trends show a consistent increase in the number of young families moving into the neighborhood (supported by the 2015 Kindergarten enrollment). The plan looked at the headcounts, retention rates and students from new development but where does it take into account the older population in the 70-80 yr. old age group that, will in the very near future, be selling their homes to move into a retirement/long-term care facility. The plan mentions retention rates, I am afraid that with this decision will come a lot of families at St. Patrick that will strongly consider moving to the Public School system, if they haven't already. I know it's on my family's mind too. This plan also lends itself to the sale of St. Patrick's property to unknown community partners, an issue that is going to be STRONGLY opposed by the residents of the community not just families of St. Patrick School.</p>	<p>Health and Safety are my main concerns. My young child will be required to cross a 4 lane road way every day during peak, rush hour traffic. It's not a matter of if a child will be injured or even killed, it's a matter of when. Commuters trying to get to the Go train station are distracted and aggressive. People coming into and leaving Burlington use New St. as an alternative to Lakeshore Rd making it congested and dangerous. Right now, my child is able to safely ride a bike or walk to school. This drastically changes with this plan. Another health and safety concern I have under this proposed plan is having my child learning in a portable for most of her elementary school experience. The proposed plan indicates that they may not be needed after 10 years, but by then my child will have graduated. Zero benefit to my family. Also, there has been no discussion about the type of portables being used, issues regarding air quality, heating and cooling or washroom facilities haven't been addressed.</p>	<p>I would recommend taking St. Patrick out of the proposed plan and find a suitable alternative for the other two schools involved.</p>
261184	<p>New school building</p>	<p>1. Location of the proposed site - away from the Church, on the very busy street, close proximity to public High School, no parks near by 2. Proposed new school is to be built for less students than currently enrolled. I am not sure about the projected declining enrollement. Demographics of the area changed a lot over the last few years. There are now many more families with children in the neighbourhood. In our school JK + SK equal to ~ 25% of total school population.</p>	<p>1. The most preferred - keep schools as is. These smaller schools that are known for the quality of their education in a community settings, where kids can walk to school are the best option for the parents, but probably not for the board. 2. Second choice - build a new school on St. Patrick site. If the land size is not enough, build the school up - 2 - 3 levels, or purchase more near by land. Build the new school in the size that would not need portables.</p>
287717	<p>That we can remain at St Patrick for at least another year.</p>	<p>Too many kids at St Patrick during construction. I do not like the Ascension school site. New Street is a busy road, and drop offs will be a challenge and I won't let my son walk to school until much older now that he has to cross such a busy road. Also, I do not like the fact that no church is beside the Ascension site.</p>	<p>Use the St Patrick site because quiet and nice street and neighborhood and beside a church. Can build a new school and combine Ascension and St Raphael, but keep St Patrick open. I know a lot of young families in the area who all have young children which will be attending St Patrick, so I don't believe the enrollment will be declining. We have 60 kindergarten this year and I believe will keep having this large number of kids in the next 5-10 years.</p>

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264935	to be honest I do not see any benefits to the students closing St. Patricks school.	The challenges I see are that the students now who attend these smaller schools are known to all staff and students by name and this unfortunately will be gone once they are put together in one large school. St. Patricks has become like a second family to both my children and myself. We are a school and church community. Not only do we see each other at school functions but we regularly see each other at our church which is located right next door to the school. If we are trying to preserve our faith and catholicity why would you think of closing our school? The children are so blessed with being able to celebrate mass and liturgies in their own parish seeing as though it is so close. By moving our school to Ascension this will be lost. We need to preserve our christianity especially in our present time when our children are faced with so much turmoil and uncertainty. We need to stop thinking like a business institution and put our children's education at the forefront.	Why not move Ascension which is located on a busy street to St. Patrick's school which is nestled in a wonderful, friendly neighbourhood and not on a busy street. Also the fact that the church is right next door. Our children need to feel closer to God and the church and not be taken away from this as you are proposing to do.
260937	There really is nothing that I am pleased about regarding the proposed plan.	Challenges I see are for the St Patrick School Community is the major change in environment with location of Ascension, the pollution on New street and the fact there is a separation between the school and church location. Safety for the children both in and outside of a largely populated school. The potential effects both emotionally on the parents and children.	My suggestion would be to leave things in the current state or amalgamate Ascension and St Raphaell.
265922			
276492	A new school	Where is the green space??? We will have our children playing on concrete? I would like a soccer field, not a wood circle which can become a future weed circle. Is a daycare center necessary? I would rather that be green space. Its next to a public high school. Much rather have our new school next to an elementary school (aka St. Patrick location)	St. Patrick location. Its a quiet neighbourhood on a safe street. Moving the school south will lessen the traffic congestion in the already congested new street area.
277643	I would very much like to see my son spend his elementary school time in a new and well-outfitted facility. In particular, I would like to see newer technology as well as greatly enhanced sports and athletic facilities.	Delivering on the plan. The build time looks aggressive, if it can be completed in the timeframe allotted, I'm all for it. I would not want too many kids squashed into small schools to accommodate a delay in the build plan.	It looks fairly comprehensive. My two keys over and above fulfilling academic requirements are facilities and equipment for athletics and technology.
265104	It would be nice to have a new school.	The proposed location is on a busy street with little greenspace, it should be rebuilt on the St. Patrick's property - the new	Please do not chose the Ascension site for the new school. It is on a busy road and next to a highschool and community center. I think the St. Patrick's school location will be a much

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		school will be over capacity as soon as it is built with children in portables - will busing be provided? - I don't believe th	better location for the new school - there is loads of green space, it is close to a Catholic Church and it has a community feel to the location. DO NOT BUILD A SCHOOL THAT WILL BE OVERCAPACITY FROM THE GET GO!!! I don't want my children in portables!!!
265791	Ability for us to take advantage of Government funding to build a new school rather than waiting till we have to consolidate and send students to other old and out of date facilities The opportunities consolidation will bring for my children: Greater access to single grade classes (which for my one son is extremely important to his future success at school) Larger cohort of children their own age to interact and become friends with New school with the same learning environment and resources other children in Burlington have access to Opportunity to access more programs that can only be offered in a larger school with the right amenities (e.g. musical instrument classes, extended French)Perhaps an easier transition into a larger high school environment	Student safety at the proposed location “Traffic on New Street has drastically increased over the last 50 years since Ascension was built and is only going to increase further if this site is chosen - very few St. Pat's kids qualify for busing and it's too far for families to walk so they will have to drive their kids to school. The flashing 40km/hr zone and two crossing guards are not adequate to ensure the safety of my children and I'm not convinced there is a lot the city can do to make it any safer given the number of side streets, parking lot entrances and the existing set of lights at Bateman that are all located on such a small length of an extremely busy road. Exposure to age inappropriate behaviour “Students will be exposed to Bateman high school students and their behaviour such as smoking, skipping classes/loitering, adult/inappropriate language which is not appropriate for their age.	Give more consideration to finding a way to make this consolidation possible on the St. Patrick site: Reduce the amount of parking in the proposed site plan since there is access to parking on the Church site next door. Consider entering into an agreement with the church to attach the lots and make better use of the space Reduce the unused landscaped space in the plan (e.g. between street and bus loop or along parking area); reduce # of childcare spaces to reduce the footprint of the childcare centre Discuss a joint use agreement with the city re:Mohawk park instead of buying the property “create a paved area in the park with basketball nets or games painted on the pavement for student use during school hours and local families after school and on weekends. This is a great opportunity for the city to make better use of a park that is unkept and only used by dog walkers. St. Pat's is a more ideal location because: It's on a residential side street with less traffic; located at a 4 way stop which reduces the likelihood of accidents and fatalities and increases the safety of students Can have an earlier school start time (9am instead of 9:15) since there is no other school with a conflicting start time and traffic congestion at peak times not a concern. This allows parents to drop off at 8:45 and still arrive at work for 9am. Close to amenities like Skyway arena (which our junior students had the pleasure of walking to and using this winter) and is at the centre of the new community hub being planned for Skyway Arena, Skyway Park and Lakeside Plaza; Located next to another elementary school, not a high school so children are not exposed to older students and their behaviour such as smoking, skipping classes/loitering, adult/inappropriate language. Allows for closer proximity to an affiliated Church I understand that 90%

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			of HCDSB students do not attend a school adjacent to their parish and that it does not stop the schools and parish from having a close connection. However, I do think though that having a school beside the parish remains a unique and beneficial opportunity for students that should not be discounted just because it is a departure from the way new schools are built.
277687		I don't like my child having to cross new street	Build next to church in st Patrick's current school site
261349	I do not like anything about the proposed planned to close St Patrick and have them amalgamate with ascension.	The challenge for me is that a perfectly good school will be shut down and in order for my child to receive a catholic education, I will have to send them to a new location which is on a very busy street and is right beside a high school. The community in which St Patrick's resides is in is a far safer environment then the proposed one. Plus, as a catholic school, I like it being right beside a parish.	Either build the new school at the St Patrick's site or leave all schools the way they are.
261331	New school	Far for kids to walk	Make sure they have school buses for kids
260947	nothing !	Mega Schools are not good for kids education New location (at Ascension) on New St next to High School with questionable reputation is a mistake ! Traffic on new Street is crazy ! Property not large for a large school.	New school(if it would be build) should be at St Patrick location .Nice quiet street with large property next to large Park and most important next to St Patrick Church ! It is important for our kids to be able to attend Church services and grow with our faith !
264620	I like the new building and the new opportunities that a new school will provide for my girls.	I think the biggest challenge is the proposed location for the new school. The Ascension location is too busy for a primary school. When it was originally built New street was not a major roadway. Now it is a four lane road (and an alternate route from the QEW in times of closures) that has speed limits of 60 km leading up to the school's zones and is a hazard for young students. Many of the students at St Patrick's are walkers, including my children. I would not feel comfortable letting my children walk to this location on their own. Drop off and pick up at the Ascencion location could also dramatically increase the traffic on New street. I can see it being a grid lock around that area at school dismissal time. I also have an issue with having a primary school this close to a high school.	I understand that the St Patricks site is smaller than the recommended 5 acres and that the proposed building would not fit onto the St Patricks site, but why was there not another style of building looked at? The current footprint of St Pats can hold approximately 350 student, if a new building was designed with the same footprint and a second floor added, would that not accommodate over 700 students? The St Pats location is much better suite for an elementary school. It is on a quiet residential street with speed limits at 40 km. All areas around the school have speed limits that are not more than 50 km. The proximity to the church makes St Pats a much better location to facilitate visits to the church. The students at St Pats have the opportunity to go to mass at the church many times during the year.

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261339	improved accomodation for the students	I see challenges being larger class sizes, loss of great teachers and loss of smaller school with character and a place where everyone knows everyone. A child's elementary experience is so important and by creating these super schools are we losing the benefits of a smaller school where nobody gets missed and children can explore safely. My children cross boundary and love St. Patrick, I hope that the same magic can be transfered to the new school.	I really think an emphasis on no bullying, being kind and listening to the kid's ideas can improve and can help them adjust. Giving them some control on event planning to get school spirit going when all kids are brought together, especially the shy kids.
263532	I just hope there will be new technology for the kids, a nice playground and hoping the juniours could be on a sports team instead of having to wait till grade 6 and up.	Bus transportation for the kids that go to St. Pat's. Hampton Heath Road is a very busy street and is very heavily travelled with students. I worry about more kids walking this street to school b/c drivers drive too fast as it is. The intersection of Hampton Heath Rd and New St. will need a crossing guard. That corner is very busy and drivers fly through that intersection. I know there are streetlights, but drivers don't care. I hope the board will consider a bus stop for these young children.	Make sure the roads are safe!!! That is our biggest concern. Hampton Heath Road Drivers drive too fast and is travelled like a highway!
276491	Nothing as information regarding new programming has been very vague. New fancy building isn't enough to impress and that's all that has been sold so far.	Definitely safety, I live in the area and I see how cars choose not to slow down and now my child will have to cross a very busy intersection and crossguards don't cut it, that's 4 lanes in a busy street and doing that every day twice a day is a definite no for me, if I have to choose between faith and safety then I choose safety and hello public school.	Do it at st Patricks, the street is a reduced speed, safer for the kids, beside a parish and don't tell me you can't but the land behind, the trees have been cut down due to some kind of bugs so hardly worth saving the five trees that are left. Make sure you start outlining what new classes u speak of cus so far you have been very foggy about it, will you include French immersion? Music class with a teacher? What will be new and better programs, plus I expect the same that we are offered at our current school. Remember that people still have a choice to stay or not so make it good cus personally I will most likely choose safety over faith and your numbers will decline even more and faster as I am not the only parent that feels this way.
290256			
276431	New updated facilities, with better outdoor facilities, art, music & science classrooms.	Worried about going from small school environment to a very large school environment.	
288021	At this time I can't say that I like anything about the plan	If st Patrick's closes and Accension is the school my children will attend, they will have to cross a major street with a lot of traffic, they will be beside a high school with the potential with rebate drivers.	

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277664	that students will have access to more updated technology	it will be very tough to relocate from existing schools to a new one. The proposed plan to rebuild Ascension on such a main street is not preferable to the option of rebuilding at St. Patrick's which has ample drop off room and a good deal of space. It also shares property with a church which is fundamental to Catholic education.	reconsider where you are putting the new school!
276425	I like that the school will be a new building with a lot of great things to offer the students. I also enjoy that there will be more students in one grade, with the elimination of a lot of splits and the ability for teachers to collaborate together in regards to curriculum.	The challenges I see is the traffic on New St. I also see challenges arising with St. Patrick's School housing Ascension next year. What does that look like? I also think that it would be great to be able to keep a school beside a church and although the current design that has been established (based on St. Benedict School in Milton) doesn't work on St. Patrick's property, maybe we should look at a different design so that it is equitable.	As mentioned previously, changing the design of the school may allow for the possibility for the site to be at St. Patrick's.
277647	I think a larger school allows for more diversity, more choice in social relationships, and am hoping increased resources and accomodations	The transition year may be disruptive given that students are having to not only attend a new setting but also new social groupings. Would like to see students who are going into gr 7 and 8 in 2016 /17 have the benefits of experiencing the attention in a small class and school setting	As noted to allow class of 17 and 18 to have the small class and school setting. This is why we moved our family here and had expectation that this would be the case
263943		Firstly, I fear for the safety of my children. Firstly, taking them out of a small school community of 250 into a school of +/- 650 will be a drastic change and although I can see some of the reasoning behind it I am concerned that this will have a negative impact on both their physical and emotional well-being. We love our small school community - everyone knows the kids and the kids know everyone - this is one of the reasons why we chose this location to buy a home in. The proposed plan talks about building a new school on the Ascension site - this is on an extremely busy street where already there is traffic congestion. Even though there are frequent speed traps - this does not eliminate the problem of speedy drivers. Now add to this school busses and triple the cars as parents from the other two school will need to get their kids to school as well. From my house alone there is not enough crossing guards, crossing lights and city sidewalks and give me peace of mind about them walking to school. Speaking of buses - more kids will need to be	As per the boards report, St. Patrick has still better statistics than the other two schools - can it be left as is? Could St. Patrick be considered as the primary location for the new school - It would eliminate a lot of my concerns re: physical location.

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		<p>bused as opposed to no kids needed to be bused at our current school, therefore eliminating that risk factor. The proposed school will be next to a large public High School - the prime reason why we did not consider Ascension for our children. As per the proposal, the new school will not have enough space to house all three school populations therefore needing portables - how does this even make sense? Ascension does not have a parish next door as oppose to the schools that are being closed. Does our faith and values not set our board apart from the public board - what better way than to tie this all together with our main place of worship, the church. We have invested money in school uniforms - will we have to invest more in new ones? As students will our children be now in competition with triple the population for spots on teams and other extracurricular activities? Will I as a parent be in competition with triple the population in regards to the YMCA Before and After school spots?? Finally I am finding it very hard to believe that the current predictions are correct in regards to declining population. Seven out of eight houses that I see out of my front window have been purchased within the last five years by families who are just starting out or have small children. We have seen a trend on our street of seniors selling homes and younger families moving in. Why is this decision being made in April 2016 prior to considering the data from the May 2016 Canada Census. The purpose of that census is help with planning for services such as childcare and schooling. Needless to say that there has not been a mandatory long form census since 2001, which coincidently is the last time I believe the question of religion was asked.</p>	
261134	New facility, more resources,pooled money and amalgamated expenses, hopefully.	The location to be picked seems like a challenge. The name to be chosen for the amalgamated schools. Could have a contest to name the new school and why the name is chosen.	The kids need Green space- it's time to do away with all the black tops. And there should still be some amount of separation for the Gr. 7's and 8's- to create a feel of junior high and to transition them better into high school.
277666			
265370	Nothing	Everything, impact on our community, children, parents, traffic, first and for most safety of our children!	STOP the Plan to close ST. Patrick school !

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264376	New proposed area too busy for children.	The Ascension School is on a vey busy road. Not safe for children especially young ones.	Expand St. Patrick school. Safer and less busy area for children.
261619	If I HAD to pick something, I would say a new facility. However, One of the reasons why we chose this neighbourhood was for the SMALL neighbourhood feel school that my children can walk to.	The location. i am not comfortable having my young children cross New Street at already height traffic times (without adding two school populations worth of cars). Portable situation. It's worrisome to propose and sell a new beautiful school (which I am sure it would be) for my child to potentially be placed in portables. I am extremely upset that you could a taking a huge factor in why we bought in this neighbourhood for my children to go to a school that we know will be over capacity for their entire elementary career.	No but I am really hoping the funding for this is denied.
277662	None	Accessibility of school from our address social , educational and emotional challenges for my children.	To see the possibilty of keeping St Patrick and accomodate the schools involved. Location wise it offers a safer environment and access to a lot of students. Also the school provides a strong access to church and strengthen their connection with their faith.
276974	Nothing!!	can walk to ST. Patrick's, vs. needing to be bussed or driven to the new site - new street is a much busier street than Kenwood drive - the use of portables - St patrick's is quite a new facility- seems a waste to get rid of a perfectly good property	Keep St. Patrick's open!!! Great location, nice quiet street, much easier access for many students.
266151		As a new parent and member of the community, I was hoping to send my son to this school as it is within walking distance of our home. I have concerns regarding what will replace the school, as I back on to St.Patricks. The proposed location is in a congested area with many surrounding streets which would affect the children's safety.	I believe that the St. Patricks site should remain existing as it is a convenient and safe location for children in the neighborhood.
260935	<p>A modern facility allowing for a better learning environment and programming. A larger school population supporting more co-curricular opportunities and more classroom accommodation options. A much, much better playground, gym and an actual stage. Better parking and driving/drop-off arrangements</p> <p>Comment 2: new facilities for students including larger gym, library, computer lab -More staff to offer More clubs,</p>	<p>possibility of portables for a short period of time</p> <p>Comment 2: no access to a church -car and bus drop off/parking lot challenges</p>	I fully support the plan as proposed

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	coaching, team opportunities -safer, More efficient building with modern amenities such as Smartboards -staff members have More opportunities to collaborate with peers when planning -More choice of classrooms students can be placed in, therefore, better suited to their needs i.e. teacher style, peers -fewer combined classes		
287701	Nothing. I do not want to lose these schools. I do not want a giant school for everyone to attend.	The children in the neighbourhood will no longer be able to walk to school. They will either have to be bussed or walk/ride their bikes along a very busy road. We moved to the area over xxx years ago because of the close proximity of schools - that will no longer be the case.	DO NOT close the schools. I realize that the enrollment numbers have been declining but the neighbourhoods will turn over in the next few years and have schools in the area promotes young families. People move to South Burlington for this very reason. If we wanted our kids to go to huge schools we would be living in North Burlington.
277645	I like nothing about the proposed closings of St. Raphaels and St. Pauls. Why? 1. The population of Burlington is increasing and this includes s. Burlington. I have moved in xxx to this area. 2. St. Raphaels is next to the church and provides significant interaction for students throughout their faith growth including confirmation (that St. Paul students also go to St. Raphaels parish). 3. Ascension school is next to a public high school - Lord Elgin. Smoking, no dress code and being harassed and labelled as catholic kid is common (I attended xxx as a child). No feeling of safety. 4. Ascension is less than 1km from Oakville. It is very poorly situated and unsuitable for Burlington residents. 5. Ascension students would still need to go to St. Raphaels church for confirmation. 6. Increase in bus transport costs and wasted time by parents and students will drive down catholic enrollment numbers. Your model assumes that 2 closes = direct transfer to the new school are inaccurate. 7. St. Raphaels gets very high academic score against all schools. Why? Because good students and teachers equate to high academic standards -- NOT the age of a structure. 8. Plan proposed was pre-meditated. Creating a 400 page document of the changes with zero input from the public does not reflect as transparent. The points listed above should have been considered before assembling such a plan - that now must be scrapped.	The challenges with the plan are: 1. The population of Burlington is increasing and this includes south Burlington. I have moved in xxx to this area. I have xxx kids - only xxx enrolled right now with xxx more added next year. The plan is not considering this. 2. St. Raphaels is next to the church and provides significant interaction for students throughout their faith growth including confirmation (that St. Paul students also go to St. Raphaels parish). The plan has not considered this. 3. Ascension school is next to a public high school - Lord Elgin. Smoking, no dress code and being harassed and labelled as catholic kid is common (I attended xxx as a child). No feeling of safety. The plan has totally not considered this. 4. Ascension is less than 1km from Oakville. It is very poorly situated and unsuitable for Burlington residents. The plan is accommodating Oakville -- NOT -- Burlington. 5. Ascension students would still need to go to St. Raphaels church for confirmation. The plan fails to include Church as part of current plan. Remember that for hundreds of years, the Church was built FIRST, then came the school next to it. This is a huge step backwards. 6. Increase in bus transport costs and wasted time by parents and students will drive down catholic enrollment numbers. Your plan assumes that 2 schools closures = direct transfer of student to the new school is inaccurate. This can backfire to the point of completely DISINTEGRATING the catholic school system.	I realize that the only reason why the suggested plan was construed in the first place is that optimization of dollars is needed. This is taking place in all industries. Aging infrastructures do occur. However, a walk through of St. Raphaels or any of these builds shows solid brick construction. There is no drywall as is used in todays builds. To get a fresh look may require resurfacing and painting the green stone floors, possibly covering brick / mortar walls with thin modern finishings and removing and replacing ceiling tiles with real drywall or comparable modern materials. These retrofits are cost effective methods to move forwards. If that still does not satisfy the bottom line -- money, then I would personally drop St. Pauls. Those kids will go to St. Raphaels since it is just up the road and still centrally located. The kids of St. Pauls are already regular parishioners of St. Raphaels church and of course they all get confirmed and contribute the church in many way such as Christmas/Easter events/skits, etc. However, if you remove the schooling from this 'hub' of Burlington, you will see a general decline not just in primary schools but I guarantee it will carry to high schools and Assumption High School will feel the pinch in a few years as kids end up going to Lord Elgin or Nelson High Schools since they were 'reared' in the public primary system instead of the Catholic system. I honestly hope that you seriously consider

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264120	New facilities	<p>Catholic parents will be putting their kids in a public system - Mark My Words. 7. St. Raphaels gets very high academic score against all schools. Why? Because good students and teachers equate to high academic standards -- NOT the age of a structure. Your plan makes on emphasis that the structure is not providing the deliverables that our kids need. That's rubbish. 8. Plan proposed was pre-meditated. Creating a 400 page document of the changes with zero input from the public does not reflect as transparent. The points listed above should have been considered before assembling such a plan - that now must be scrapped. This is probably the biggest beef that most parents have with the plan. 9. Statistics used do not take in to consideration the price of housing in south Burlington. Prices have escalated and have not undergone a market readjustment YET. The rest of Ontario and other provinces are already started. Once the adjustment occurs, more people will be able to afford a home in south Burlington. The plans graph uses an exponential decay. This means catholic schools will never rebound. Ouch. That is not realistic at all and I really feel bad that such poor data is now publically available to our Ontario School Minister who just may decide to pull the plug on support of the Catholic School System due to this poor statistics! You have seeded the devil with bad information. 10. If the bottom line is to drop overhead, then simply label it as that. St. Pauls should then be closed to reduce the cost of the principal, vice, secretary, basic operational overhead, cut out about 25 teacher salaries. The savings I humbly estimate to be 1.5 million year over year. Also add that if the land is sold, a single payout of 10 million (brick of the building would likely be reclaimed) plus the prime price of land in one of the highest real estate markets of Burlington could then be driven to still make upgrades to the remaining schools.</p> <p>Distance and class size</p>	<p>what I write. I am and have always been a strong and practising Catholic, but this plan requires a serious overhaul and consideration of what I have written. May you all think back to where you WOULD NOT BE TODAY if God was not part of your childhood. Your decision to move forward with the proposed plan simply extinguishes this basic fabric to which YOU can attest has made YOU the person you are today.</p> <p>Only combine St. Patrick and St. Raphael</p>
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261142	New facility	Losing the proximity to the churches and a catholic school within walking distance of all the communities.	Relocate the students to a school which is located beside a church and keep the students mostly within walking distance to the school. Therefore keep St. Patrick and St. Raphael open. If one location only must be picked between the three schools then rebuild one of the school located beside the church. However, this doesn't keep a Catholic schools within walking distance of most of the students involved.
277658	Nothing	Loss of an important part of our community, loss of key component of a walkable neighborhood	Keep the school open and offer french immersion or other program to increase enrollment.
276356	I don't like at all. I like St. Raphael's for my child	Distance and quality	Leave St. Raphael's open
261515	The money saved by bringing the schools together would be an obvious benefit as would the new facilities.	When we were deciding between Tuck and St. Raphael's there were several factors which made the decision easy. Although my son's knew children from the neighborhood who were attending Tuck; a school with a decent reputation, St. Raph's was the obvious choice for us. The fact that St. Raphael's is close to our home and right beside the church is important to us as Catholics as our son has been able to attend several masses with his classmates. Even though he would continue to get a religious education at Ascension, I believe the proximity to the church is important. Aside from significant financial considerations, I'm not sure what our catholic board has to gain by moving away from the churches to property located beside a public high school. It seems as though, this move is intentionally or not, setting us up for the amalgamation of boards. Small class sizes and a strong school community is another factor which made it easy for us to decide where our children would go to school. St. Raph's reputation as a caring school community is beyond reproach. Our son has had the privilege of being in a school where all the teachers and the principal knew him by name and looked out for him very early. It has been proven again and again that class size is a critical factor affecting student success. Again, aside from the significant financial benefit, the teachers, students, and the board itself would lose so much that has made St. Raphael's successful over the years.	Honestly, I know there may be no easy solutions to this one. I realize the pressures which have been placed on buildings not operating to capacity which has been placed on all boards by the government and I do not envy the individuals who have to make these decisions. I feel underqualified to answer this question or make suggestions however I do appreciate this opportunity to provide input. I will certainly do my best to be more informed (xxx) and perhaps have some way I can help in this respect in the near future

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261035	None	Greater class sizes, bus transportation, portables, decrease in testing scores, an overall loss of the Catholic board.	Keep St. Raphael school open
261018	I do not like the proposed plan. The only benefit is that the new school will be equipped with the latest technology however that is not a good enough reason for me to change my child to a new school. If I wanted that I would move to north Burlington.	There will be too many students in the school resulting in portables, the cost of transportation will be a huge increase for the board. The students will get less one on one time and it will not feel like a community school. The walk to st Patrick's church is dangerous and it can not be safe to walk that many children for church activities. The cost of new uniforms for the new school is unfair to those who have spent a lot trying to provide for growing years. My children's grades will be affected due to the increase numbers of students in the class. I don't think extra after school activities is a reason for closing a school. They are right next to a high school that is non Catholic the parking issue will be the same as it is now at St Raphael's with that many children attending the school. Parent teacher interview night will be a nightmare. Traffic congestion for this area is already extremely high making it difficult already to get in and out. Add another 300-400 students and it will require traffic lights or police traffic controls. Finally more children will move away from the Catholic teaching and move to public school as they keep the children in their areas of living together. Both Tuck and St. Raphael's are top performers in the district making parents want to keep there Children in these schools.	Bring french immersion back down to these schools and you will see an increase in the areas. My suggestion is to think long and hard before making a decision about closing two of these schools. You will be not only taking from the community but from the church that these communities are a part of. I am really disappointed in the school board for even thinking about this without trying other options first. Instead you bus students to other over populated schools. Bring those students down here and your numbers will balance. Also I feel if we have to move to another school the school board should allow parents to have a standard uniform that has no logos and can be purchased at any other place rather than McCarthy, or get rid of the uniforms.
261316	Facilities Upgrade. Nothing else.	Too many kids in one place. The number of students per grade and room will go up, potentially compromising the effectiveness of teaching St Raphael and St Patrick have high rankings, the merge may compromise this and kids will not excel as they should. The bigger the Catholics schools are the lower the rankings. Number of the staff, the district is looking to cut cost, therefore how are they going to prevent things like bullying?	The facilities at St Raphael and St Patrick should be upgraded. By keeping more schools there are more job opportunities for teachers and the smaller the school the best education.
265764	Improved programming and extra-curricular opportunities for students.	Distance for students, i.e. many who can now walk/ride their bike to school will need to take the bus. Childcare and other after school activities may be impacted as a result of the distance. - Uniform - unclear if students will be able to use their current Uniform shirts.	

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277654	<p>It means that the board is taking time and energy for newer schools.</p>	<p>My 3 kids will never again will be able to walk to/from school. They will have to wake up way earlier to take a bus that will take close to 1 hour to get to the school. When my older daughter goes to the High School, the younger ones will be going to the opposite direction. I bought a house xxx years ago based on distance to school, that is not going to work for my family nor for potential buyers in our neighborhoods. More over the gap of about 8 km between a Catholic school and the next one is so large that I would not be surprised if in a 5 year or 10 year period, other religious groups of family take over the neighborhood that is aging and selling to new families (like mine). And as a consequence, the Catholic NEW school will have lower numbers than the sum of all 3 schools together. And maybe, later on, it doesn't make any sense to keep a Halton Catholic School Board with so many member\$ that you will also have to merge with other close schools boards like Hamilton or Mississauga. My kids get a very personalized attention from the school, they won't get that any more. Parents help each other as a community, since we all live close by. The school is right next to the Parish, that fact is irreplaceable! No matter how appealing you manage to do a Mass (new) location at the new school. It's not the same as going to the actual church. Unless you bus the whole school. There are so many cons... it just does not work for us. With all respect, this proposal is insulting.</p>	<p>Yes, invest all that budget in renovating existing schools which if they will still be used (as per you plans) it means they are in pretty good shape. Plus, be understanding and save all those jobs you will eliminate and save the South Burlington for Catholic families. Please, you knows those schools are still good for many years, they just need some money to update them.</p>
277655	<p>Not much. My son was moved from Ascension to st Raphael's by the board to join the structured teaching class</p>	<p>Bussing, Ascension starts later as well which is difficult for working parents. The change for some kids that can't handle change very well</p>	<p>Keep them</p>

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277646	<p>Possibility of a new facility and better programming options for the children (more clubs, possibly instrumental music instruction)</p>	<p>There is too much distance between St. John's and the new Ascension school. This will leave many children in the south-central part of Burlington, who previously were able to walk to school at St. Raphael's or St. Paul's having to take the bus to school. I personally may opt for the public school for my xxx kids as we are more than 4 km from each of the proposed Catholic School sites (St. Johns and Ascension), yet only a short distance (3 minute walk) from Tuck School I am concerned the new Ascension will be over-crowded and our kids will be in portables for too long. Also, the proposal would eliminate any school affiliation with St. Raphael Church, which is not appropriate. The kids from St. Paul's and St. Raphael's neighbourhoods should not have to attend either St. John's Church or St. Patrick's Church which is SO far from where they live. Separating schools from their neighbourhood Church seems contradictory to the values of the Catholic system. I believe St. Raphael and St. Paul's should be amalgamated into one site and continue to be affiliated with St. Raphael Church and that Ascension and St. Patrick's should be amalgamated into one site and continue to be affiliated with St. Patrick Church. The board still gets to save money and improve efficiencies, but only closes two schools, not three in the south end. South Burlington is becoming more populated with families as the older generation and original owners are now moving out and families are moving in to this very desirable neighbourhood. Closing three schools is too much and even though the new Ascension school sounds great, the bottom line is that proximity will definitely become an issue for many parents who would prefer a Catholic Education for their children, but due to work/life commitments and logistics opt for the closer, public school.</p>	<p>I believe St. Raphael and St. Paul's should be amalgamated into one site and continue to be affiliated with St. Raphael Church and that Ascension and St. Patrick's should be amalgamated into one site and continue to be affiliated with St. Patrick Church. The board still gets to save money and improve efficiencies, but only closes two schools, not three in the south end.</p>
277683			<p>As a parent, I understand the idea of the new proposed school, but I am a little unsure with the location. I can appreciate the need to merge schools, but I believe more thought needs to be put into the Districts affected and where they are situated. If you look at the current locations of the</p>

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			Catholic Schools in South Burlington, I would think that a consolidation of St Raphael and St Paul as one school and St Patrick's and Acension as another, would make more sense. I do not know the student numbers that you are dealing with, however I feel merging two schools together would be make more sense than three.
261076	Opportunity for better programs for the kids	Bigger school means bigger class sizes. I don't like the idea of multiple classes or portables. I like the feel of a small school, teachers knowing each of their students and a small community.	
277701	None	Bigger population	None
261040	Don't agree with proposal	Location, not beside a church, groupings with 2 schools that have scored much lower on the provincial tests, lower school rating due to academic performance; prefer smaller school community setting	Consider academic performance and location of current school beside church and spend necessary money as needed to improve current school
277650	School programming	No green space Bigger school but kids still in portables Still split classes Busy area for traffic If holding community events Pasta nights movie nights Christmas concerts not enough parking to accommodate entire school Teachers losing jobs Property values My kids walk to school and won't be able to walk to the new location. With this decision any concern With declining enrolment will only get worst for families to move into the area. Less kids to make the sport teams No parish connection Although it may a requirement of the ministry to have a cc centre in order to gain access for the funding It provides no value to our children and green space to enjoy	Fill the empty classrooms with FI or gifted programs. Wait 10 years when the portables are not needed
277605	An increase in programming for students	The location: decrease connection to the parish, decrease health as my children will not be able to school, decrease sense of community since they won't be in their neighbourhood; The large number of students - amalgamating 3 schools and adding day care spots = mega institutions. I am not aware of any evidence that shows this is good for young children's development. The messaging / optics of removing two schools from 2 churches may minimize how this connection is valued.	Consider amalgamating the schools that share parishes (i.e. St. Raphaels and St. Paul's / ascension and st. Patrick's)
277673	Nothing	This plan will further escalate the decline of students in the local catholic schools	Two schools with 300+ students in two of the the existing schools.

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261061	Modern learning environment, leadership and teaching staff changes; Field and playing areas	Integration of the St. Raphael's students after St Patrick and Ascension students have been together for a year prior. No church beside the school	Ensure there are strategies in place should the St. Raphael's students be the last ones to integrate; perhaps the "principal to be" of the new school, becomes St. Raphael's principal for the year prior.
261238	I am actually for the proposed plan and welcome the idea. I would welcome a new facility with the hopes that it would bring more programs, better equipment and improved technology. Also along with that would be a better field/schoolyard for our children to play on. Currently St. Raphael's yard is a small concrete area.	I suppose one challenge might be that there is no church near the proposed new location while the other two locations have a church on site..	Please know that not all us parents are against this idea. You will probably hear more from the few parents against this as they will be very vocal. There are quite a few parents that remain silent because they agree with the idea.
261332	We are NOT happy with the new plan. We have two small children (xxx and grade xxx) and we moved in the area because of the great reputation St Raphael school has. We love the school.It has aprox 250 which we think is great. All the teachers know the students and they really make such a big effort to make our children happy!. Our boys learn so much from school and the teachers are on top of things when it comes to educating the students. Even though the new plan was presented in such way to show how much a new school can offer, I can tell you that a small school offers more then a new school. With lots of children teachers cannot have everything under control. Therefore there are going to be many problems that maybe the teachers won't be aware of.For example bullying. We have friends that are at a big school and their child was bullied , the teachers did not save the problem because they did not have time to pay attention only to one child. St Raphael school has such nice teachers and principal to help and save any problem. Beside that, the children are getting along very well.The big kids take care of the small ones, everybody is taught to be nice, polite and respectful....The school has computers and the teachers are always going to courses and are always up to date when it comes to teaching methods. ..Whatever was written in the newspaper as disadvantages for the small schools is not true. If you, the person that is reading my comment will have a child, you would LOVE to have your child at St Raphael school.	First, Having a big school with lots of children in, it will create more and bigger problems. It is going to be very hard to keep everything under control. Drugs, violence, bad behavior, disrespect will increase big time. Second, the new school will be near a very busy street. Several years ago was a fatal accident exactly where is the high school on New Street, near Appleby line. There are going to be so many school buses for the children , the traffic will be terrible and dangerous, not safe at all. Third, between Appleby line and Brant Street there are going to be no Catholic schools.So people will have to move because usually the parents try to have their children close to the school. Fourth, the children are brought to the church by the school very often. If they will be in a school away from the church, every single time they need to go to the church , they will have to take the bus or they won't go so often to the church. We have the children in a Catholic school for religious reasons and we love that they go to the church very often. If they are not near the church, they could easily refuse to go to the church. It makes so much sense to have a Catholic school in the same yard with the church. What is the logic in having an adult center where people that are not catholic will not care about that church. Where is the value of the church and catholic education in this. Fifth, lots of children and people will suffer, neighbors around the new school won't be happy with so many children and traffic around them.	STOP the plan, open the adult center somewhere else. Let the children grow up near a church where they can understand the value of the church and they can be better children. Renovate St Raphael school

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	I totally believe this is somebody's interest and they don't think what is best for the children but what is best for their name, position, and pocket.		
261104	1/ Better socialization opportunities for children (My daughter is in a class with predominantly boys). This is no where near enough socialization with other girls for her duration at St Raph's. (Note: St. Raph's has only THREE girls in the entire grade xxx cohort too). 2/ Better opportunities for programs and extra-curricular. 3/ New modern facility with state of the art technology. 4/ My daughter's gr. xxx classroom at St Raph's does not meet Ministry of Education mandated cap class size of 20 students. (there is only 1 gr. 1 class).....the new school will help meet this capped class size for gr's 1-3. 5/ Grass/ green space opportunities (St Raph's has little to none). 6/ Safer parking lot offering (St Raph's has had tragic accidents in the church parking lot with ambulance being called for medical attention to children being hit by cars).	Location. It is not ideal at all. -It should be on a side street, not on a major thru-fare street such as New St (especially next to a high school). -This is a long term multi-million dollar capital investment, complacency is not acceptable. It must be ideal. - 49% of students bused (325 kids bused). (this proves this is not an ideal location). -Childhood obesity is the highest it has ever been. This new school location will just add to this statistic with half of the school being bused and the children not able to walk to and from school.	Create a plan to find a location which is better. -Buy other Land or utilise St Patrick.
277652	Modern conditions for our kids	Combining parishes would divide classmates when they receive their sacraments. No identity to a parish and school.	Don't change a thing but give a little money to each school to improve their aging schools
261152	I really do not like anything about the proposed plan. I am sad and not looking forward to this becoming a reality.	I moved to this area in order to send my children to a small school - where everybody knew you by name and where you could grow up in a tight-knit community. I actually bought my current home based on the idea that my xxx children would go to the same school throughout their elementary school years. I loved the fact that the school and the church were on the same property - and my children love that too. That has allowed all the students at St. Raphael to feel very much at home within their parish church. There is history at St Raphaels - and it is a shame to end all that for a "mega-school". My fear is that the students will not be well known and that they will all feel as though they are a "number" inside a large population. There is enough time for that later on in life. (xxx Personal information removed xxx). They need stability. They are often afraid and scared....I take comfort in the place that they call their "2nd home". We are all devastated to hear of this plan and hope that something can be done to stop it.	Please reconsider.

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261371	Nothing.	Larger school means less individual attention for students - Disappearance of school-specific programs such as Halloween Hoedown, grandparents tea, etc -Loss of "small community" feeling - More kids = more likelihood of bullying - just look at other big schools	Don't close and merge the schools. -Make Ascension bigger if necessary, but don't make so large as to intake all 3 schools' students
266190	New facility, larger student population that will provide more opportunities for extra carricular activities	Transportation. Location, close to a public high school.	Combine only st Raphael's and st pauls
261380	Newer facility with playground, perhaps more programming opportunities in math, science, the arts	No Catholic school in central south Burlington - no walking or riding a bike to either new Ascension or St. John's from our home, leading Catholics to possibly choose the public schools in their neighbourhoods or make south central Burlington a poor choice	Jumping on the money offered by the ministry on a very short timeline seems like a mistake. I think more care and thought could go into combining two schools at a time. Sell Ascension's land and use that money to fund a renovation at St. Patrick. As well, combine St. Raph's and St. Paul's, saving rent on Merton by housing it at St. Paul and putting money into St. Raph's facility, and playground. If school is at 54% occupancy, presumably adding the second school would take it to full capacity. If St. Pat's and St. Raph's are filled to capacity and have some reno done it leaves neighbourhood schools with churches. Perhaps if St. John does experience more decline those students can be bussed to Holy Rosary.
260971	Updated technology	Losing the small school feel, students taking care of follow students. Students becoming a number rather than everyone knowing and caring about each other.	
261405	Newer equipment and hopefully more resources will be made available to our children with the investment of a new school.	The overcrowding of a new school by amalgamating the 3. The location on New Street is very busy with the high school, community centre and now a new larger school. We are adding an additional 400 plus students to an already crowded parking lot. Student pick up and drop off will be challenging. I have concerns surrounding safety. Busing is a challenge. As a parent we are taking away the ability for our students to walk/bike to school. What will bus times look like and how much longer will this be adding to an already busy day for our children. A sense of community. A small school lends to students being known by name not number. Losing the parish right beside the school will be unfortunate. Having our children be able to go over to the church monthly and gather for mass as opposed to the priest coming to the school gym is something that I feel truly applies	

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		to the teaching of the Catholic religion. Losing the location of so many Catholic schools has an effect on South Burlington. How will this affect the families in the future who are considering Catholic education?	
276503	Thereally is no part of the proposal that I like.	I see many challenges including but not limited to - the erosion of Catholic education be eliminating 2 schools in the system. Removing 2 schools with churches. Only considering 1 new school design and "trying" to make it fit on all 3 sites - then saying that it won't work so the Ascension site is the only option how about designing new school builds for the actual lot (square peg round hole - designed to fail). The new plan has virtually no greenspace . The Ascension site is the highest traffic site of all 3 and will only get worse when 500 kids per day get dropped off by car.	The board should be looking at other design plans more suitable to choosing a site other than ascension. Better yet - how about expanding french immersion in the board and utilizing st Raphael. Or even better still - don't fall to the lure of money from the Ministry. Leave the schools alone in order to leave a larger footprint making it more difficult for the ministry to do away with Catholic education.
287708	The fact that it will be a newly built school is the only positive...but would rather not move to a further location for both of my young children (xxx & xxx) Also, don't like the fact that the kids will not be near their Parish...St. Raphael's.	It will be further from home, therefore it would mean buses, for my young children and more buses on the already busy roads. Also, the fact that it would be further from our Parish...that they should remain a part of for first communion and confirmation.	Keep St. Raphael's open...it is in the middle and much needed for the area. It is about community...and it is important to keep the kids in school in their community and within they're Parish. It will distance the community and the children within it, if you distance at such a young age. Not necessary.
290110		700 plus students is too many for an elementary school. Academic journals conclude that academic performance suffers in elementary schools of this size. The location is a huge safety concern with children having to cross major intersections on a busy road that will only get busier...500+accidents a year on that stretch. We want a parish school community- why would the board ever give that up- it is the essence of Catholic education. We specifically avoided buying in the Ascension catchment area for this reason. Our neighbourhood has many young families. We don't want another cookie cutter huge school by some architect that bid the cheapest. Build up on st raphs site now or build up on the st pats site.	Build up on the st raphs or st pats site. Change the plan. Don't include the childcare. Rethink the numbers. You will lose Catholic parents.

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261637	<p>I am not in favour of the proposal and I am at a loss to find something I would favour about it. Gentrification of the area and future residential intensity plans around all GO Train stations announced by the City of Burlington will not accommodate space demands (see Burlington Post, Feb.12, 2016). The claim is that a new school with upgraded facilities will result in improved student performance but this does not correlate to the experience with St. Raphael that has older facilities and the highest elementary school rankings for both Public and Catholic boards, according to the Frasier Institute.</p>	<p>The challenges are as follows: 1. Safety - the proposal estimates a minimum of 45% of students will be bused to the single amalgamated new South East Burlington school. There is a very high probably of increased accidents at drop off and pick from designated bus stops. Based on current trends, there will also be an increase in traffic of parents dropping kids off at school and jockeying with busses and pedestrians for access to the new school as working families do not have bus pickup/drop off times aligned with families' employment schedules. This is a particularly acute problem for families with children that are or will be going to St. Raphael since, as I understand it, the entire student body would need to be bused. 2. Increased teaching time Disruptions - There is a higher probability of late student arrives and drop offs due to weather or other conditions that will have a greater impact with at least 45% of students bus. 3. Loss of Teaching / Administrative Best Practices - St. Raphael is THE HIGHEST RANKED school in all of Burlington across all boards, as per the Frasier Institute's elementary school rankings. The opportunity to share best practices would be lost if the school is closed. In sincere honesty, I cannot understand why the board would destroy the honour of having the highest ranked elementary school in Burlington, in favour of newer facilities that have not proven to be a factor for St. Raphael success. 4. Enrolment Projects do not factor in Community Gentrification and City intensification plans - I had contacted my City of Burlington Ward 4 Councillor Jack Dennison, who agreed that the area for St. Raphael with 500 homes surrounding, are 80% empty nestors and the area is currently undergoing rapid and significant Gentrification with young families moving in. Mr. Dennison also shared the City of Burlington's plans that a higher density development that may go up very close to St. Raphael. In addition, the Burlington Post on February 12th outlined in an article titled "Former Vancouver chief planner gives Burlington 'urban diagnosis' ", that the City of Burlington's plans to increase density around all GO Train stations in Burlington, including the Appleby GO</p>	<p>My suggestion is to not close down St.Raphael and exclude it from this proposal. As I have mentioned, St. Raphael is THE HIGHEST RANKED school in all of Burlington across all boards, as per the Frasier Institute's elementary school rankings. In addition, the entire student body of St.Raphael would need to be bused to a new amalgamated school. The argument of improved facilities to improve student performance is counter to the success of St.Raphael and this unique school should remain open.</p>
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		<p>Station close by and this will no doubt place substantial stress on the plans to build a new amalgamated school with only 648 students. If the City of Burlington experiences the same growth patterns as the adjacent town of Milton, we could then expect up to 40% of new residents to the area to be Catholic. As the province of Ontario will only issue funds for a new school when students are physically present in the area, shutting down St. Raphael is a very risky plan which could undermine the educational opportunities of students and minimize the very benefit that a new facility could possibly bring due to overcrowding that will mostly result in the new amalgamated school.</p> <p>5. Ensuring a Catholic spiritual environment - The Halton Catholic School board was established to ensure that teaching is conducted in a manner representing Catholic values and includes religious instruction. The visual reminder of this cannot be better served then at present for St.Raphael as the school is right beside the church of St. Raphael. I find it a tragic loss and a troubling trend that the latest teaching facilities is cited for the proposed plan, which is not centered around the very reason for why there is a Catholic Board, and that is ensuring the Catholic church and surrounding Catholic community remain the heart of raising our children.</p>	
261212	<p>I love the looks of the new school and how clean and new and updated it is. I am also thrilled that the students of 3 of Assumptions feeder schools will get to know each other well, before they head off to high school. I think this will do good things for the enrolment of Assumption High School as well.</p>	<p>unsure of challenges</p>	<p>It looks terrific.</p>
289360	<p>I don't like this plan at all, I'm a student at St.Rapheal school and I am mind blown by the idea that the board would like to take away small schools. I still don't get the idea of why st.rapheals is not usable because if your selling it, and there making another school out of that, it can obviously still be used.</p>	<p>I see that the community we built as a school, knowing each other, having the principal and teachers know everyone and having the friendly environment that a small school has will be replaced with a loud, abnormally large school.</p>	<p>DONT DO IT. I am a student and will be devastated if this plan goes through.</p>
277675			

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277524	New school	<p>The proposed site on New Street puts child safety at risk. At the proposed site New St. is 4 lanes, speed limit is 60 km (40 km when light is flashing), and stretches along Burlington and Oakville: Kerr street in Oakville to just shy of Brant street in Burlington. Commuters travel into and out of the city from this main route! The site is next to a public pool and High School, where teenagers are inexperienced drivers. From Jan 1st 2000 - Dec 31st 2015 there have been 577 collisions on New st. between Appleby and Burloak - 34 in 2015 alone! (Source: City of Burlington Transportation - Traffic Services). This is NOT a safe or appropriate location for an elementary school. Not enough has been done to make the 4 acre St. Patrick site work for the re-build - this is in a much safer location. Kenwood Ave is only 2 lanes, speed limit is only 40 km, and is 0.8 km long. It spans from Spruce Ave to Lakeshore Rd. Local traffic. There are four way stop signs at the entrance of the school. Kenwood Ave is much more appropriate and safer for an elementary school, and the site is next to the parish.</p>	<p>Here are a few alternatives to the proposed plan: Option 1 - Do not close St. Patrick. Combine Ascension with St. Raphael. To increase enrolment at St. Patrick offer French Immersion (full south catchment area) and / or the International Baccalaureate program at the primary level (open to all of Halton just as done with the IB program at St.Thomas Aquinas at the secondary school level). We are the most south east school site, closest to south Oakville where there would be a market for both programs. Option 2 - Close Ascension (dispose / split land / use for Thomas Merton Adult Learning centre) and combine with St. Patrick, re-build / renovate on st. Patrick site and create a school for 500+ students that may not require the same footprint as the planned 648 pupil school. This total meets the Board's stated optimal school capacity of 500-671 spaces. This also avoids the need for portables. The footprint on one floor today fits 337 - so I don't see why we couldn't make this work. St. Raphael can combine with St. Paul on the St. Paul site (add the addition there vs St. John), where they already share the same parish. This is the best consolidation option, where 2 schools are closed on New st., re-locating children to safer more appropriate sites, keeping them with their current parishes, and out of portables. Option 3 - Consolidate the 3 schools on St. Patrick site. Re-work the plan to fit 4 acres (you were able to create a plan for up to 521 pupils on St. John's mere 1.92 acre site). If you need an additional acre incorporate Mohawk Parkland via one of the following ways: Since there's an existing agreement for St. Patrick to use the Mohawk Park, and planned investment to update the infrastructure of said park, this is a plus for the St. Patrick site. Should the Board need to acquire more land, applying for 1 of the 7.2 acres can be done via the stated process below. See recap from the City of Burlington response regarding Mohawk Park, and Capital Budget Details: Site size is 7.2 acres Mohawk Park Infrastructure Renewal (via City of Burlington Approved Capital Budget) \$200,000 over 2016 and 2017 planned investment for Mohawk Park. This is</p>
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			the time to work with the City on a mutually beneficial plan for the park. Reciprocal Agreement to use the Park The City and the two school Boards (public and catholic) share use of playgrounds and the parties permit each other'sfields and facilities via a Reciprocal Agreement to maximize facility use and minimize duplication of capital costs. Land Purchase In order for the HCDSB to use Mohawk park for anything other than park use would require them to purchase or lease all or part of the park. No such request has been made to the City. Any sale consideration would have to be made by City Council resolution.
265697	I like nothing about the proposed plan	I dislike the proposed busy street it will be on. Elementary schools should be on a quite safe neighbourhood street. There is no Church close to the Ascension property. I like the smaller intimate school and that is being taken away. There is a family feel with the smaller school where everyone knows everyone. Not only is it proposed to be on a busy street, children in the south have to cross a busy street to get to school. Many of the parents moved to the south to be in walking distance of a good, safe school. You say that the students will be moved together to keep friendship but many of the parents are thinking of putting their children into the public school board therefore hurting the catholic school board and friendships that have been made!	If we need to go further with a renovation of location I vote for the new location to be on the St. Patrick property As a Catholic school I value the location of St. Patrick school being right next to a Catholic church and on a friendly neighbour hood street. Put the children's safety and religious values before a price tag.
277699		Safety of the children. Catholic Church experiences being taken away	Combine 2 schools only. Renovate/expand St Patrick site to accommodate.
265028	A beautiful new school a better facility with a proper gym, a nice library, science lab, a stage and modern lighting More classes at each grade level (fewer splits) More sports and clubs better programming (like instrumental music) proper accessibility money not wasted to maintain old buildings that will never be equitable with the newer ones in other communities	some portables for a few years	a transition period where uniforms from all three sites are allowed to be worn

Burlington Southeast of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

276335	<p>There obviously has been a lot of thought go into the consideration of different variables impacting this decision. I don't challenge or question the authenticity of the information or the due diligence of the research.</p>	<p>The plan is based on a centralized model of school administration. I'm not convinced that is entirely beneficial or in the best interests of students. From what I saw on the website the test scores for students at these schools is generally above average. I think that speaks positively for preserving the status quo. The quality of education, and the need to prepared students well for future education and careers, must remain the primary goal. I'm concerned that not enough consideration has been given to maintaining the existing facilities and opening up opportunities for sharing of facilities. There is no rule that says students have to go to school in a building that is exclusively geared towards education. In the late 1990's part of Mohawk Public School near St. Patrick's was converted to a Stroke Recovery Clinic. That arrangement worked well, and provided a vital service in the neighbourhood. I think the trend today is towards small concentrations of students as a more conducive forum and medium for learning. I also believe students would benefit tremendously from going to school in a facility near their homes. I respect that enrolments may be decreasing, but demographic changes can and do occur. I have lived in my neighbourhood for over forty years, and during this time I have seen significant demographic changes. Sometimes the percentage of school age children goes up, and sometimes down. It is almost impossible to predict. Finally, I believe in keeping options open. Tearing down St. Patrick's which only underwent a significant renovation about 10 years ago, is not far-sighted. I would favour maintaining the existing schools, look for opportunities to share existing school facilities with other stakeholders and organizations, and allow students to attend schools in their immediate vicinity.</p>	<p>See my previous comments. Share facilities and share resources.</p>
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Burlington Southeast of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

277038	Attempt to address facility maximization based on population and building requirements.	The need for many students to be bussed to school, which minimizes activity (walking) and fresh air. The location on busy New Street, which will cause increased traffic & potential for danger to students crossing the road. The idea of 125% capacity - I do not agree with seeing portables at newly built schools. It is not fair for either students or teachers. What closing the school around the corner from me will do to my property value is also a concern.	
277151	I don't like it!	Parents!	No
265256	Nothing	Do not like idea of something else replacing the school Do not like the idea of the school being in a busier area on New Street	Use St Patrick as the consolidated school
265286	Better use of educational facilities	The proposed site for New Ascension school	Use the St. Patrick school site for a new elementary school serving families in the area
265878	Absolutely nothing	Issue of student safety, student relocation (how children will adjust to relocation), low ses community or apartment complex in place of st. Patrick's, property value being affected by possible new development of these types of properties	Do not tear down the school
265423		Potential decline in neighborhood because studies have shown once a school has closed within a community like Elizabeth Gardens, neighborhood assets such as churches, parks which have been important often disappear. The community may loose an institution that helped to build relationships among local residents. Who would move or stay in a neighborhood that does not have a school in which parents and community members can invest their energies? As previously noted at a community meeting in November regarding the Lakeside Plaza redevelopment, this area does not want to loose its identity to developers. Along with school closures, property values often decrease. What will happen to the parks behind the school?	Would prefer to have a community center rather than being taken over by developers.

Burlington Southeast of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

265780	to keep st patricks as the amalgamated site...	bussing small children to the busy area on new street IS A BIG COCERN...the enrolment for kids WALKING to school is definitely UP within the last 2 years... (xxx) which means younger families are now moving in to the south end of Burlington and want to walk to local stores, services, schools etc and don't want to drive everywhere...The pollution will help no one...more busses and cars on the sub divisions taking the children to a different location just does not make sense...	amalgamate school busses,,with public and catholic,, they are both running past the same schools half empty....save money and the environment... Neighbourhoods will rejuvenate and theses schools will be needed in the locations that they presentytoo much money is spent on large new separate schools in the north end of the city...too close to busy highways, intersections where the pollution will affect the kids playing in the yard at recess times!!!These areas are conjuested enough already... If a school needs closing, close Ascension.
265206	Very little. This appears to be a decision already made and Catholic Boards should be reluctant to close elementary schools located adjacent to their parish churches. Financial pressure by the secular Ministry of Education which prefers larger elementary schools should be ignored. We need not placate the ministry of education and their funding models. If we need to close an elementary school, close Ascension as there is no Parish Church immediately adjacent to it.		
276382	Nothing	Catholic schools should be located near/adjacent to Catholic church	Do not close St Raphaels school or any Catholic school which is located beside a Catholic church

Burlington Southeast of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

276324	Very Little	<p>I must say that I am both shocked and angered at the news regarding the proposed closings of both St. Raphael's and St. Patrick's elementary schools. My children are graduates of St. Patrick Elementary school and many parents and students (both current and past) cherish the special relationship and connection this school has to the St. Patrick Parish Community. Catholic Boards should not so cavalierly ignore the special connection between elementary schools and their parishes for the sake of temporary cost efficiencies implemented to placate the Ministry of Education and serve new provincial 'Funding parameters'. Financial shrewdness may please the morally bereft provincial government and ministry of education but such shrewdness is not always commensurate with sustaining the Catholic nature and fabric of our cherished education system. Financial efficiencies should not trump the special vitality of smaller Catholic elementary schools. Closing viable elementary schools adjacent to parish churches because the projected enrollment numbers do not meet an 'ideal funding benchmark' is outrageous. Bigger is not better! St. Patrick's projected enrollment is not really low. As a staff member employed with this Board and a parishioner of St. Patrick Parish and a concerned parent, I sincerely hope and trust that St. Patrick is not closed. I unfortunately cannot make the meeting Wednesday. I get the feeling the decision has already been made and this bothers me somewhat.</p>	<p>Augment the sites at St. Patrick's and St. Raphael's. They are adjacent to Parish churches.</p>
277068	Do not support this proposal. Its short sighted by the school board.	<p>I purchased my home in a part of Burlington that had established infrastructure because I want to provide the best learning experience for my child within walking distance. (xxx). This proposed change will significantly affect the ability of all home owners south of the QEW, from Brant St. To Burloak Dr. by creating an environment that will preclude young families wanting to purchase homes in this area. The demographics are considered low at this time (2015/16) but with a older population living in this area, you will see the rapid change age demographics once the homes will start to turn over to younger</p>	<p>Review and rank all the remaining schools by a rating criteria. ie; age of current infrastructure and series of past renovations since completions, available lands for expansion, Available recreational spaces for physical exercise, access to the school from the ease of access, conformance in a residential area, Recommend that the planning process be similar to how hospitals plan, 5, 10 and 15 +year cycles Improve your on going maintenance program to keep up the existing schools. The cost to have a thorough maintenance program extends building life cycle costings significantly at a fraction of the cost to purchase, service and develop new lands to support</p>

Burlington Southeast of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

		families. If you remove the catholic school system in the entire area, you will create a childless zone in Burlington.	construction of new schools. Burlington is done expanding, we have finished the residential growth process. The only way for Burlington to expand is to re develop existing properties and to intensify development. How is the HCDSB planning to accommodate students when this happens?
277283	Nothing !	The current plan will require the children to be bussed to far with to much time lost in travel. There is no connection to a parish church.	
290262		That schools and parishes are being uncoupled. Both the parish and the students will lose by the geographic secularization.	I would like the Board to have clear rationale for why sale of St. Patrick's is preferred. Once you lose the property, it doesn't come back and our parish will suffer.
276236	I understand that a new facility with state of the art technology is important to educating students in 21st Century Learning.	I feel that moving the school away from the home parish is not conducive to promoting Catholic Education: Home, School and Parish. There are many challenges in Catholic Education today, one of which is the difficulty of students inability to practise their faith in the realm of the Parish Community. Parishes are renewed and built up and make their contribution to the Sacred Triad of Home, School, Parish by welcoming families through the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation! as well, School communities participate in the life of the parish on a regular basis when the school is located to near the parish church.	My choice would be to improve the schools near the parish churches and educate the students there.
265850	The proposed plan has no real advantages.	Not located next to a Church. Location is too close to a public high school that has a bad reputation. That part of New Street is much too busy to locate an elementary school. The fields have very little natural wind barriers and shade to relieve the effects of the hot summer sun.	Locate the new school at St. Raphael location behind the church in the present parking lot. Remove the existing school for a large parking area for the church and school. Use the large Stathcona Park area for recess and out door education. Connect the new school with the church with an underground pathway and a above ground connection roof from the entrance of the school to the entrance of the church. Utilize the large hall in the basement of the church for school functions such as dances, hallowe'en hoe down, Christmas bazaar, practice areas for drama, music, and any other school function that could be held in the adjacent hall. The use of the hall will allow the gym to be used for sporting events and not be disrupted by school functions. Re-align the boundaries to allow three schools to survive. St, Patrick which can include west Oakville to Appleby Line, St. Raphael from Appleby to

Burlington Southeast of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

265667	<p>The amalgamation of the three schools will allow the board to offer more services to special needs</p>	<p>The increase in traffic and congestion around the spruce and Kenwood area The terrible ordeal of putting kids in portables that become mold infested and destroy their sense of belonging and ability to move freely in the school The very real possibility that you have not planed for and increase in children driven by the fact that many homes in the area are currently held by retired couples and that in the very near future they will be filled with vibrant families. In the next 10 years on xxx alone at least 10 Holmes will be filled with younger families. Have you looked a the current demographic of the area and it's future?</p>	<p>Guelph Line and St. John from Aldershot to Guelph Line. School / Community / Church must be a priority for a plan. Do not sell St-Patrick's like St-Gabriel's use it as a community center for the city until it is needed again. Your new school will not be able to service the community 15 years from now</p>
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**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southeast QEW School Project**

APPENDIX D

Transcribed Comments

Community Consultation Meeting

Burlington Southeast QEW Modified Pupil Accommodation Review

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

✓ = Additional community member in agreement with comment

QUESTION #1

What do you like best about the proposed plan?

- New build
- Additional programming above and beyond what's available now
- New facility/state of the art/21st century ✓
- Location makes sense
- Having a new school facility – new technology and built the way that is best for kids to learn. State of the art, and access to better/more facilities (music room, etc.) ✓✓✓✓✓
- Consolidation of resources – efficiency ✓✓
- Central location
- Investment in the community
- More staff is good for the kids
- Less split classes is good for kids
- Located on a main artery which is easier for drop-off/pick-up
- Daycare there would be convenient ✓✓
- Opportunity for more kids own age to interact with
- More opportunities for extra-curricular activities
- Better technology; proposal addresses ongoing changes and needs ✓
- Updated, modern, clean, bright facility ✓
- Greater access to single access (vs. split grades) grades
- Larger cohorts (to choose friends) in each grade
- Same facility in older area as in newer areas including dedicated facilities i.e. music room, etc.
- Take advantage of provincial funds
- New facility
- Specialized rooms – what will be offered?
- Technology – 21st century
- Larger school, more support, more extra-curricular
- Less splits, preparation for high school
- New friends, opportunities
- Less intimidating transitions
- Like the idea of fewer split grades ✓
- More resources at proposed school (computer labs, music room, art, science)
- Better facilities
- More extra-curricular activities with more staff (possibly)
- Additional funding into the Catholic school board
- New facility
- Walking distance for some
- If had daycare aged children then that would be a plus
- Increased staff = perhaps extra learning opportunities

- Classrooms dedicated to specific subject areas
- Updated new facility ✓
- Less split classes
- Nothing positive about this plan ✓✓✓
- New school – building
- Any building would be new
- Upgraded school
- More teams, athletics opportunities
- Fewer split classes
- More opportunities extra-curricular
- Children who are already at Ascension will get a brand new school
- Brand new facility
- For families who have toddlers, growing families, daycare is a convenience and easy transition for children (keep family together)
- Transition for grade 8's to bigger school but perhaps at a cost of "community"
- Music program, specialist teachers - art, music, science, technology
- Fewer split/triple grade classes
- New technology
- Increase in number of staff new and up to date
- State of the art
- Extra-curricular
- Less split class
- Does not like anything about proposed plan
- Prefer culture of smaller school
- Doesn't understand buzz words used
- Access to more extra-curricular activities ✓
- Positive for St. Raphael
- Amalgamation of resources ✓
- More play space for kids – bigger gym, etc. ✓
- More students, more classrooms
- More teachers
- New facility
- Variety of programs
- Better socialization for the students
- Several staff/grade level (possible)
- Play space – GREEN
- Potential for smaller class sizes
- Makes sense, more opportunity and less split classes ✓✓
- Easier transition to larger secondary school
- New school/less splits
- More opportunity IF new equipment also + staff
- Potential for more opportunity ✓
- Potential for more specialized skillsets/teaching + support staff
- Resources – personal and teaching ✓✓✓
- Good for students ✓✓✓
- Adult Education at St. Raphael – resources/location/access to parish ✓
- New building
- ⊕ That we are moving in this direction before decision is made for us – boundaries change/closing of schools/separation of communities ✓

- Larger schools - more opportunities for students ✓
- Brand new facility (modernized) ✓
- Additional classes (rooms – music, art, science)
- Technology – bonus
- The access to the money
 - Current technology into school?
 - Really 21st century leaning BUDGET?
 - Dollars just for building/resources
- New facility
- Clean
- Less split classes
- More access to extra-curricular activities – not just mainstream sports (music, arts –stage, science, Sp. Ed. conducive)
- No movement between students/peers
 - Issues between kids socially-move ability to separate
- Large gym
- Better lighting
- Better playground – more grass, less pavement please!
- Sp. Ed. Accessibility/no access to busy street
- More efficient school = keeping Catholic education
- Investing in facility ✓✓✓✓
- 21st century/modern learning – funding investment ✓✓
- Field, programs, sports teams, clubs, better outdoor space
- Broader social environment, mix of classmates
- Diversity in the school community
- New opportunities
 - Teacher/student based
 - Diversity
- New technologies
- Larger spaces
 - Classrooms
- Comprehensive model
- Idea of a new school
- New school offers different learning opportunities and French Immersion
- State of the art facility
- Ratios will remain the same
- Up to date infrastructure
- New building ✓✓
- Increase in school population to a degree ✓
 - Lessening split classes
- Nothing positive ✓
- Likes consolidation but location is a concern for smaller children
- More specialized resources ✓
- Consolidation is good – site is not ✓
- New opportunities
- Teacher/student based
- Diversity
- New technologies
- Larger spaces

QUESTION #2

What are the challenges you see with this plan?

- Lack of church – what message does that convey? Where is home church?
- Busy intersection
- Location – all our kids will be bus students
- Proximity to Bateman High School (smoking, drugs)
- No Catholic neighbourhood school (7.1 km from St. John to Ascension)
- No walkers (currently walk)
- Too big – portables
- Parents will send kids to public schools (less tax dollars for HCDSB)
- Lowered sense of community for kids that feel comfortable in
- Adding portables and day care = less play space
- What about St. Raphael – St. Patrick and Ascension amalgamate first
- Our Grade 8's = amalgamated year
- Just invested in uniforms
- What infrastructure is in place by city for 3x traffic
- New programs/extra-curriculars not guaranteed
- Day care for school community only? Public?
- Parking – drop-off too many cars
- Bigger schools ≠ split classes
- Trustees do not have students in affected area
- Doesn't take into account increase in enrolment
- Building school for 648 (max capacity) which is in the future. Right now why would we open schools with portables?
- Busing/transportation (something new for parents and kids)
- New St. is a busy road for elementary kids to cross
- Transition from small to large school difficult for students
- Convenience of having a church beside school – lose the connection to the church/programming that can happen jointly
- Why put a school next to a public high school vs. the church?
 - Also there will be a renewal of Skyway arena, a community partner we could leverage
- Traffic on Kenwood would be overwhelming
- Traffic on New St. would also increase
- How do we maintain the success in EQAO at small schools once we move to a larger school
- Funding: what happens if the Board doesn't get the funding we need from the Ministry
- Timelines may be challenging – will it get done on time
- Beside high school
 - Add traffic congestion
 - High school behaviour – smoking, loitering
- Safety concerns
 - Speeding traffic
 - Additional traffic congestion – lots of St. Patrick's parents will have to be dropped off
 - New drivers at high school
 - Crossing four lanes of traffic
 - St. Patrick kids don't qualify for busing and it is a long way to walk for them
- Less green space at Ascension site than what is there now
- Don't like idea of portables
 - Away from the rest of the students

- Poor message to students: everyone else gets a nice new school and they get stuck in portables
 - Moldy/cold
- Away from the church – lose the closeness and interaction
- No parish church associates with school (physical association)
- How would sacramental preparation and celebration look like with no churches?
- Traffic on New St. (irresponsible of Board staff to recommend to council the New St. school as preferred without considering traffic impact study, city and regional approvals, health and safety – crossing guards)
- Next to high school
- Other schools built in last 20 years are not built on arterial roads
- Re: daycare – municipality is capitalizing on board's offer to include a facility, which now requires 5-acres site. Why wouldn't Board require land to accommodate the facility from municipality (on St. Patrick's site)
 - Park plan doesn't have to be purchased; a joint use agreement is possible
 - Premature, ill-advised without considering
- There is growth in St. Patrick
- Busing – New St. crossing
- Crossing safety – need a light
- Speed limit
- Transition period ✓✓✓✓
- Parking/drop off – not big/safe enough for 50+ (new school)
- Parish connection – declining Catholic education
- Choosing safety over Faith
- Location – traffic due to high school next door and busy streets with no secure crossing. (with past facilities) ✓✓✓
- Opinion on the proposed benefits are contrary to research, with respect to academic performance and size of school
- Current facilities could be updated – the facility does not determine academic achievement
- Transition to high school should not be focus for elementary school children
- Loss of sense of community in a bigger school
- Safety (crossing New St.)
- Two roads no sidewalks
- Triple number of kids crossing increasing risk
- Zero sense...portables?
- Location
- Demographics recently have changed (increased), are numbers being reflected?
- Being near the high school
- Traffic flow/how do you attend to that many people?
- Staying a small real community with church
- Mass at a real church (community)
- The year when building... where is Ascension, taking up play space
- If room for portables, why can't we build the school there...
- Roads with no sidewalks on either side
- Uniforms? What happens with current ones?
- New site no green space once built
- Less opportunity for students to have access to sports (more kids but 1 team)
- Bigger schools and more staff does not equal more extra-curricular activities. Staff engagement is voluntary.
- Uniform transition
- No accountability or transparency in the process
- St. Raphael school will feel left out
- All of St. Raphael will now be bused

- What stats are being used to predict declining enrolment?
- Potential loss of staff (secretary, custodian, principal)
- Were any other plans proposed to combine 2 schools instead of 3
- Why is there a daycare taking up part of our playground?
- Research has not shown that larger schools are better for kids
- “Parishionally Challenged” – moving away from the church?
- We may lose families to closer public schools
- Long term portables, not all students will be in the school
- Choose St. Raphael because it was next to church
- More kids = potential for social issues
- Location (busy + high school) ✓
- More bus transportation
- Start/end times
- Trying to fit 1 school design on 3 different locations. Why does it have to be this model?
- Is it actually going to be a 21st century learning school? Enough technology for students?
- No Catholic school next to church
- Affect St. Vincent de Paul – food collection
- Boundaries limited
- 45 families within St. Raphael
- Plus Syrian refugees
- Traffic – turning lanes, stop light
- Sidewalks
- Who is responsible for the road infrastructure
- No greenspace – trees – concrete
- Children takes buses
- Pollution
- No neighbourhood experience
- Portables for years – 15 years?
- Next to public high school
- Parish community divided
- Where do children receive their sacraments?
- Divide students based on Parish?
- Need gym closer to exits not in the middle of school
- Have you read this? Any answers for us? Please call [phone number removed]
- Loss of connection between Parish Priests and students
- If demographics change with young families moving in will we ever have a school for people living in the St. Patrick or St. Raphael area?
- Large student population – concern
- Larger classes
- E.g. 12 students/100 approx. grade 8 play basketball vs. 12 students/45 approx. grade 8 play basketball
- Opportunity decreases
- Transition period!
- Consider other models
- Uniforms?
- 2 storey building?
- What happens to Assumption?
- Sense of community lost
- Bigger is not always better
- Need to hear more about actual dollars and where it can be spent (Ministry directed funds?)

- Full disclosure?
- Larger population
- High traffic area light?
- High school drivers
- Concerned about integration of all the kids
- Too much confusion/upheaval
- Why building it too small from the beginning? Portables
- Neighbourhoods will turn over regeneration eff/flow of demographic
- Projections incorrect
- Proposals are inaccurate
- Busing necessary (can't walk to new school)
- No church
- Chapel in the school?
- French Immersion?
- Very little green space left
- Sports field?
- What will be done with St. Patrick's land? Development? Condo?
- Losing quiet sense of community
- Friends in neighbourhood (walk home together)
- Too far to walk for little people
- Less opportunities to make teams because of larger population
- Before/after school programs
- Students leaving their home school may be difficult
- Home values lower around closed schools?
- Playground too small – no soccer field – double the students
- Bringing together 2 parishes
- Keeping or creating sense of community
- Kids get "lost" in a bigger school
- What if numbers are wrong for growth and population "balloons"
- 1 year Ascension students, many classes in portables (misplaced)
- Kids walking from Lakeshore
- How do we keep Catholic population if now a public school is closer?
- More kids more bullying issues?
- Health and safety for children ✓
- Community concerns
- Parish/school relationship
- What is feasible on St. Patrick
- Challenge of over-capacity (appropriate size of school)
- Portables (i.e. separation from school, safely walking between school and portables)
- Losing closeness of school community
- (#1 concern) Safety of school site (on busy road with large community population and concern at teen drivers at near-by high school) ✓✓✓
- Acreage shouldn't be only criteria for choosing site
- Losing green space
- High school next door to proposed site
- Challenge of infrastructure – can't handle "mega" school
- Has traffic impact study been done?
- Traffic flow
- Challenge of using old census data (wait for new) (don't trust stats presented)

- Challenge of communication
- One size fits all approach doesn't allow alternative considerations (i.e. have no daycare, smaller gym, etc.)
- Not enough traffic lights and monitoring of traffic
- Education and safety and religion not forefront
- Parents bought purposely to be in smaller school communities
- Schools individually highly ranked
- Extra-curriculars and sports should not take precedence over academics
- People choose to cross boundary out of Ascension because of location (too many collisions out front on New St.)
- "Mega" school hard to monitor number of children = higher risk of bullying
- "Mega" school will not have number of kids projected due to parents pulling children due to size
- Student safety (4 lane highway, traffic, New St. alternative route for traffic accidents)
- Increased pollution
- Public high school next door
 - Students driving
 - Possible drugs
 - Smoking
- Why do they need 6 acres
- Parish role minimized – mass in the gym
- Transition for the students
- Portables (possibly for 5 years)
- Young students crossing a 4 lane street without a crossing guard
- Increased enrolment rather than decreased over 5 years
- No grass or green area
- St. Patrick 4.7 acres, to get a property with 6 acres = displacing 500 students
- Students won't be able to walk to school alone – 4 lanes of traffic
- High school student was hit by a bus and died on New St.
- Logistics – busing and dropping off 700 students on New St.
- 5 trustees can vote – only 4 trustees present at the meeting
- Lack of playground – no soccer field
- Busy street (turning lane required)
- 2 churches
- Buses?
- Safety measures!
 - Crossing guards
 - Walking
 - Traffic/accidents
- Small school – know everyone – feeling of closeness/family
- Not enough lights/sidewalks
- Busy roads
- Next to a high school
- Not happy with new plan
 - School too big
 - Social problems
- Location
 - Busy street
 - Next to public high school
- Number of buses
 - 49% of population
 - Wrong location?
 - Volume of traffic

- Pick-up and drop-off – hard to find mommy
- Portables – 10+ for first ten years
- Masses in gym? Why remove access to church
- Loss of “walkable” school location
- Parents moved to location based on rankings of school
- Lose enrolment to public school due to convenient location
 - Divert dollars to public!
- Social segregation – “clique” existing schools
- Proximity to high school – poor influence?
- How are we distinguishing ourselves as Catholics
 - Loss of churches
 - Next to public school
- Transportation and safety! ✓
- Dynamic of the high school next door ✓
- Community approval + support
- Lack of sidewalks enroute/younger children = long walk 30+ minutes
- Access to safe crossing of New St.
- What would happen to St. Patrick’s land
- Educational/staffing considerations re: school ranking
- Parking at new facility/drop off + pick-up
- Putting younger kids on bus – JK/SK
- It’s being rushed
- Traffic light on New St.
- Risk of sudden boom in enrolment because of new shiny school
- Pupil to student ratios are too high
- Kids with higher needs taking time away for teachers
- Basic school design is the same on all lots + not being modified specific to site
- Costs of lifecycle, cost of school, busing too high
- Adjustment period for older kids
- Losing “relationships” in larger school + kids falling between the cracks
- Losing students to public schools
- Census data being used? When from?
- Ambitious timeline where other schools have taken 2 years to reno
- Not enough play space at St. Patrick when the construction is going on
- Loss of proximity to Parish
- Confusion about which Parish is to associate with the school – perhaps encouraging more split community
- Short habitation span of portables + accessibility
- Can we see a set of plans of the proposed new school
- Uniform consolidation
- Will you be using Passive Design (low energy, eco-friendly, etc.)
- Many portable years at new school
- Have the students been involved in the proposal? Added success?
- Is the feeder high school the same?
- Teaching and support staff and admin – who loses their job
- No elevator/staff washrooms shown on plan, or greenhouse
 - Why not change the school design
- Will students be bused to churches for masses on a monthly basis?
 - Receiving a Eucharist in the church ✓✓✓✓✓
- St. Raphael parish – possibly no parish = no children ✓✓

- How does the parish serve the children of “the parish” (how does the child identify their priest, their church/parish – Confessions, for example)
- Sacramental preparations/celebrations at CHURCH not SCHOOL
- Where do the children “belong”
- Comparisons between parishes
- Transportation
 - Does this impact more buses ✓
 - YMCA ✓
- Special Education – St. Raphael has many resources in close proximity – relationships, etc.
- Bell times? – Scheduling for parents ✓
- St. Raphael – loss of both schools connected to parish
- Traffic on New St. – parking
- Plan B? What if this plan doesn’t go through? ✓
- 8km gap between the schools
- Gives the perception of abandoning area
- In the SW review, using St. John, which is similar site size as St. Raphael site size – inconsistency
- Uncomfortable having an elementary school close to a high school ✓
- Traffic issues – how will they manage traffic at school ✓
 - There needs to be a different start/finish time for elementary and secondary school if they are close
- Location of St. Patrick more ideal (there is a city park to use)
- 4 portables 10 years vs SW 2 portables 5 years
- City of Burlington plans to change GO service – every 15 minutes
 - Making city more attractive
 - Intensifying area
- Solution to put 3 schools instead of the 1 bigger school
 - Still feels like splitting a school, even if all students moving
- Issue with portables, currently have none ✓✓
- Traffic – any plans to install traffic lights/cross walks
- New building takes up too much room, not enough room for 800 kids to play outside ✓✓
- School not next to a church – making new school by no church when 2 already have churches
- Facility is fine – pick different site
- Demographics change – younger families will move into St. Raphael
 - 80% empty nesters (as per Jack Denison)
 - Area is changing
- Parking/drop-off/walking zone
- Traffic/busy street
- Serious traffic calming measures
- Unable to walk/distance
- Blending of 3 staff to 1 school
- Addressing first graduating students
- Bringing parishes together with the 3 schools in 1 building
- Losing students to public board
- Kids reinforcing church/home/school relationship
- Hearts are with home schools
 - Emotions
 - Changes are scary
- Uniforms – \$ keep all 3 under 1 school
- Losing staff
- Concerns with ASC – St. Patrick for year of demolition of Ascension. St. Raphael kids having to “fit in” with the Ascension/St. Patrick kids

- Traffic, lots of speeders, concerns of past fatalities of school children ✓✓✓
- Possibility of light standards? (City)
- Student safety, location next to Robert Bateman high school, smoking ✓✓
- Integration process; transition year how will students be brought together
- Reduce speed limit (40 when flashing) (City)
- Travel times, far side of boundary both transportation and parent times
- Lack of green space/open fields
- Students moved multiple times
- Cross busy street ✓
- Inappropriate age cross cover with Robert Bateman ✓✓✓
- Location does not have much green space
- Losing small school culture
- Increased traffic in the area
- Feel it will become a rough school because of proximity to public high school ✓✓
- Construction time frame ✓✓
- Number of portables + how long ✓✓
- Sacrificing 2 years of education
- Safety concerns with portables ✓
- Loss of familiar teachers ✓
- Loss of a “safe” “comfortable” community
- Location
- Maintaining the safety of our children with commuting to and from school ✓✓
- High traffic area ✓✓
- Data is not significant
- How is this helping declining student enrolment?
- Location ✓✓✓
- Staffing loss of support staff
- Proximity to a church
- Not enough transportation information for each location – re: crossing guards + walking distance
- Safety for children crossing highway
- Possible population increase in local area
- Portables take play area
- Loss of community/“family” sense for children ✓
 - Won’t be as inclusive (sports teams – e.g.)
 - Loss of Catholic community
- Too close to high school
- Switch to closer school possibly public system
- More options information for each site
- Uniforms
- Portables

QUESTION #3

Do you have any suggestions to improve this plan?

- Change/switch programming to bring higher enrolment (i.e. French Immersion, Gifted Program)
- Amalgamate/consolidate St. Raphael and St. Paul therefore keeping parish in area and established connection in neighbourhood
- No portables – no green space!
- No day care
- Buy Gary Allan land and build new school

- Is there no other plans that could be drawn up to show the new school on other sites
- Change the speed limit on New St.
- What are other options for site?
- Can we not purchase parkland beside St. Patrick?
- Could we share the parking lot with St. Patrick church in order to have the site work at the St. Patrick location
- Build it on St. Patrick's property
 - Make it work!
- Talk to the archdiocese to share the parking lot of St. Patrick's parish
- Remove the daycare and that would allow the St. Patrick land to be used
- Build school to not need portables – make it bigger
- Inquire further about parkland beside St. Patrick and make that location work
- Traffic study to improve traffic flow (e.g. lights)
- Engineer to prepare traffic impact study
- Professional planner's opinion on community impact
- Require municipal contribution of land ownership and/or use to support inclusion of early years centre (at St. Patrick and St. Raphael)
- Parking at church taken into account (St. Patrick and St. Raphael)
- Municipal parks at St. Patrick and St. Raphael currently being used by schools should be considered in land use review
- All of the above should be done BEFORE Board makes a decision
- Last 20 years a new school has not been built on an arterial road
- Expectation that municipalities and Board work together on land use matters, including parkland
- Invest in existing buildings (programs)
 - "Super School" vs. older schools/programs
- Is 21st century learning too much?
- Commitment to content that will be offered (programs)
- Kiss and Ride area improved
- Commitment to SAFETY ✓✓✓✓✓✓
- BETTER programs ✓✓✓✓✓✓
- Could a different footprint building fit on the St. Patrick or St. Raphael site ✓✓✓
- Use funding to update existing facilities and re-organize existing space; adding music rooms, technology ✓✓✓
- Could we combine St. Paul and St. Raphael together, and St. Patrick and Ascension (an alternate proposal) ✓✓✓✓✓ ⇒ if new facility
 - Target school size of 300-400 pupils
- If daycare is dropped, can fit on smaller land
- What is a normal area for walking web? May be smaller
- Drop portables/expand on St. Patrick's land/buy from city more land
- Has it been attempted to buy land from city?
- Why the 3 schools? Maybe just a smaller school on St. Patrick's land (Ascension and St. Patrick)
- Put in sidewalks
- Having a question/answer open mic opportunity
- Different location – partner with city to obtain parkland (St. Raphael or St. Patrick)
- 2 schools per consolidation
- More green space
- Alternative plan?
- More central location between Burloak and Brant St.
- St. Raphael parents would rather merge with St. Paul at St. Paul's current location
- Increase crossing guards (Appleby – New St.)
- No more than 300-400 students per school

- Bring French programs south of the QEW to keep student at these schools, increasing numbers
- Keep current schools open, and/or create new model design (layout)
- Don't take Catholic out of the school
- Get rid of childcare spaces
- Keep St. Raphael open, all schools beside churches should be kept open
- Design a school with no portables
- Do not make this huge decision based on funding
- Put focus on making children want to be in south Burlington schools by bringing new French and other programs and redesign Assumption
- Adult ED would fit nicely into Assumption
- Listen to the community members
- Add another floor to accommodate the extra 100 students NOW (Corpus Christi)
- Kiss and ride area – enter/exit congestion
- Traffic light or calming features
- More green space – fewer portables
- Better parking lot flow
- Work with city planners to ensure safe entry/exit on New St.
- Can we have no uniform for transition years?
- Why not group St. Paul with St. Raphael? (Already share Parish)
- Is daycare primarily for families attending “Ascension”?
- What is maximum population for new school?
- If this happens for “Ascension” does it affect decision for St. Paul and St. John?
- What about “off-guessing” (everything new)
- What is being done with closed school properties?
- How do we keep Catholic population enrolment when public school is now closer?
- Will cross boundaries be allowed?
- What does Burlington Thomas Merton ALC bring?
- Is French Immersion going to be an option? (At some time)
- Full review process of sites (not consult) ✓✓✓
- More transparency/openness
- Needs and justification of school closures has not been adequately demonstrated
- Pick safest site then modify/create school plan to fit site
- Combine 2 schools instead of 3 (i.e. St. Patrick and St. Raphael only)
- Want alternative options (i.e. on St. Patrick site – share parking lot, park could be used)
- Consider building up verses out (add stories and smaller footprint)
- St. Patrick site safer location (not on busy road)
- Build on St. Patrick's site (modify current building to accommodate amalgamation)
- Ensure daycare is for school families – should be 1st priority
- Is there a safer location with 6 acres to build new school
- Can additional property be acquired from the city
- More green space
- Turning lane to get in/designated 40 km/h zone all the time
- Get on with it
- Comments are being acknowledged and opinions are valued in the decision
- Proposal for St. Patrick – buying the parkland next door
- Clarification on busing, student accommodations during transition
- Commitment to programming (art, music, etc.)
- St. Raphael JK-4 - St. Paul 5-8
 - Decrease split classes

- Increase focus on curriculum
 - Natural transition to Assumption
- Take Funding
 - 1. Consolidate Ascension and St. Patrick on St. Patrick's land – beside church
 - 2. Consolidate St. Raphael and St. Paul on St. Raphael's land – beside church
- HCDSB and City of Burlington – Alternative location
 - Very long term
- Implement new programming to draw students from public – IB, AP, French Immersion
- Change Plans
 - 3 floor plan – decrease footprint
 - Therefore able to build on smaller lot
- Make an entrance from side street
- Traffic lights + improved safe crossing areas across New St.
- Involve the kids
- Remove daycare to allow another site or third party site
- Taking more time to consider all activities in each considered area – condo development proposed
- Customizing the building to THIS community (i.e. less portables)
- Could something else be considered instead of daycare space i.e. library
- Have they considered splitting the grades on 2 sites i.e. K-3 + 4-8
- Have they considered that the St. Patrick's area is "turning over" with younger families moving in
- Why can't we have site at St. Patrick? St. Raphael? ✓✓✓✓
 - Use of city/parkland
 - Common use agreement?
 - Transfer Ascension land top city
- Can we re-model the proposed school model to fit on St. Patrick's property? St. Raphael's? ✓✓✓✓
- Build vertical on St. Patrick/St. Raphael's property ✓✓
- Why take away "best practice" for Catholic schools and churches to be beside each other? ✓✓✓✓
- 12-13 million – to be put into St. Raphael/St. Patrick's current properties vs. a new "fantastic" building
- Dollars into empty classrooms – to make them music/arts/tech classrooms
- Re-consider "population study" – older people moving out, newer, younger, families moving in all the time
- French Immersion at new site
 - No current south Burlington site
 - Competition with Pineland
 - Loss of Catholics
- Catholic schools vs. public schools
 - Closer proximity to home
 - Easier access
 - We may have a loss of our Catholic students because of the change in location of school (convenient)
 - St. Paul/St. Raphael – John T. Tuck/Pauline Johnson/Ryerson
 - St. Patrick – Pineland/Mohawk
- Change location – not at Ascension site
 - Prefer St. Patrick – play area, next to church, parking, no traffic, residential area
- Modify design of school so there's more land (re: St. Patrick)
- Possibility to buy park site by St. Patrick
- Change design of school to fit the site, not the other way around. Design fits "master plan" community – not organic community
- Having 3 schools between Brant/Burloak doesn't seem like too much
- Historical precedence – look into splitting St. John/St. Paul
- Ensure specialty rooms – music, arts, Sp. Ed.
- Using staff in new facility

- To the best of their abilities
- Explore funding dollars to benefit community as a whole
- Commitment to use funding dollars for Assumption
- BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING DOLLARS – TRANSPARENCY
- Improve class sizes/splits (no splits)
- Traffic calming measures – lights ✓
- St. Patrick park next door is preferable design, more green open space, low speed limits
- St. Raphael get new principal early to ease transition, don't want to be left out during the transition year
- Grandfather uniforms, transition overtime
- Prefer St. Patrick area for investment
- Consideration of St. Paul site for rebuild? (other review)
 - More green space, less pavement
- Retro fit 3 buildings ✓✓✓✓✓
 - Do not have to disconnect from 2 parishes
- Plan for traffic and student safety
- Creation of new programs to attract families
- Demolish Ascension to put money into retrofitting others ✓✓✓✓
 - Less busy
 - Green space (St. Patrick)
- Knock down parish at St. Raphael to make room to less congested location
- Modify plans to be built on St. Patrick's land
- Remove child care facility = more land to keep at St. Patrick!
- French Immersion program (Extended French) could be offered
- Develop at St. Patrick instead (land available, negotiate with city) ✓✓✓
- Amalgamate St. Paul and St. Raphael at St. Raphael site
- Ascension and St. Patrick at St. Patrick site
 - Schools both by a church
- Ask city to make parkland behind Ascension

Handout Left on Table

Community Consultation Meeting

Burlington Southeast QEW Modified Pupil Accommodation Review

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

- We want you to act as Catholic Trustees to ask for renovation money for both of our schools in St Raphael Parish and thereby foster the parish family, school triad.
- The money should not be used to build a new, unnecessary school.
- How much will the new school cost? Is a multi-million-dollar school really necessary or is it meant to be a spectacular showpiece for Halton District Catholic School board on a principal thoroughfare in Burlington?
- Why do we have to build a big new "horizontal school" after tearing down Ascension, instead of adding a few more classrooms (vertical perhaps) at St. Raphael or St. Paul?
- Is it just an ill- conceived answer to a big money offer from the Province?
- Why is a 700 student school better for "programs" than a 250 student school?
- Why not have teachers rotate our Burlington Catholic schools to offer special programs and equip the schools with the required material resources for these programs?
- What about small community environment for elementary students? Is a big 700 student elementary school the best learning environment for pre-teens? Is a big school really better for the humane and holistic Catholic education of our young children?
- Why do we have to put one more obstacle in the way of the connection between family and school and our Parish by taking away both schools? Just because some parishes don't have a school next to the church is a poor argument to remove an existing best practice.
- Do you realize that further leakage to the public system will happen when Catholic parents have the option of their Catholic children going by bus to Ascension, rather than walking to John T. Tuck, Ryerson, or Pauline Johnson?
- Do you realize that Grade Eight students at the new school on New Street will put all our Catholic students next to Bateman? Do you think they will opt to go to Assumption rather than next door to Bateman? Is there not danger of substantial leakage after grade eight?
- The Catholic school is an important faith community, but it is not the primary faith community of the students and their families! As experience has demonstrated in other Boards, when the Catholic school is removed from a parish, the parish connection is weakened and decimated. Did your planning for this proposal consider that it will diminish the faith community of St. Raphael? Is that a priority for the Board?
- Do you realize the great difficulty you will put on the pastoral team of St. Raphael's parish to have sacramental preparation for its students if they are relocated to the New School?
- Do you understand the difficulty this proposal will cause for regular celebrations of Eucharist and Reconciliation during class time in St. Raphael parish church in order to build a parish community for its children and parents?
- Do you know that funding for transportation to the church already is very limited and insufficient so that with relocation to the New school regular sacramental liturgies held in the school will become normative rather than exceptional? Does that not defeat an essential relationship of parish, school and family?



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southeast QEW School Project**

APPENDIX E

Parking Lot Questions

Community Consultation Meeting for Burlington Southeast

March 2, 2016

(Grouped by theme)

SPACE

QUESTIONS:

- Where will the kids play @ St. Pats once the kids from ascension come?
- Where will the ascension kids be? In portables?

ANSWER:

During the transition school year of 2016-18, we estimate we would need 8 portables on site to temporarily accommodate the students and staff coming from Ascension Catholic Elementary School. If the transition is to occur, both St. Patrick and Ascension students may be accommodated within portables depending on their age, whereas some would be accommodated within the existing building. To accommodate outdoor play, portables would be clustered to maximize play space and if necessary staggered recess times would be implemented, as is currently done in other schools across our Board.

CHILD CARE CENTRE

QUESTIONS:

- Why is it necessary to have an 88 person daycare?
- Why not get rid of the daycare facility proposed for the new school? This would potentially allow for St. Pat's to become the new site with less area needed
- Will the daycare students be Catholic students that will naturally migrate to the school?
- Why does the new site need a daycare if there is a declining population in the area

ANSWER:

We strongly believe that the introduction of an 88 space child care centre would provide an added benefit for families that would further support the success of the school. Having a Ministry regulated child care centre would provide for a smooth transition from pre-school to JK. In addition, parents would have the added convenience of having their child care centre incorporated into their current/future school. This initiative aligns with the Minister's current plan to include child care centres on elementary school sites within future and existing neighbourhoods.

It should be noted that child care users do not need to be Catholic, as it is open access.

PLAY SPACE

QUESTIONS:

- Are areas for sports i.e. soccer field + baseball diamond not important to the education system?
- Why is there so much blacktop in the proposed design? What happened to the greenspace? Seems like it's mostly parking & spots for portables?
- Can more greenspace/playground be provided by excluding Day Care?

ANSWERS:

It should be noted that the site plan presented is a concept, and has not yet been finalized. Hard surfaced and grass play areas are anticipated to be provided in the same ratios as our most recent school projects. Based on past experiences, we have provided more hard play surfaces on our school sites, as soft play surfaces cannot be used during certain periods of the year due to weather conditions.

Baseball diamonds are not part of an elementary school site. If a school community wishes to include a soccer field with posts on the school site, this would be an option.

CITY/LAND PURCHASE:

QUESTIONS:

- Has HCDSB, city of Burlington + Catholic Church worked together to seek an "optimal" land space for this future new build? Has land other than existing HCDSB land been considered? E.g. Skyway Park is 8+ acres + across from St. Patrick Church
 - Nelson Pool + Nelson Youth Centre
 - St. Patrick Church could sell/lease land where their north driveway exists to HCDSB + St. Patrick would have 5+ acres to build a new school.
- Has the school board attempted any type of communication with the city in regards to buying land to expand St. Patrick's? If so what was the response and by whom?
- Who has the school board contacted in the city regarding the parkland around St. Pat's?
- If 5ac. of land is required to house municipal early years facilities/parking → why doesn't the board require a municipal land contribution from the municipality @ Mohawk park for St. Pat's outright purchase not required joint-use-agreement possible.

ANSWERS:

As part of this process, HCDSB staff met with representatives from the municipalities in the City of Burlington and the Diocese of Hamilton to explain our potential accommodation plans.

HCDSB staff contacted the City of Burlington about the proposed plans, and have not received any indication that there are other available sites in the South of QEW review area available for purchase

that would accommodate a school on 5 or more acres. City of Burlington staff also indicated that there is a parkland shortage in southeast Burlington, limiting the HCDSB's ability to purchase park lands.

At the St. Patrick site, the Board already has a shared-use agreement with St. Patrick Church. There is no indication from discussions with the Diocese of Hamilton about an interest to sell a portion of the St. Patrick Church site to our Board. Church needs (such as funeral services) that take place during school hours often cause congestion and overcrowding in the parking area.

It should be noted that the child care centre is a Ministry of Education responsibility, and not a municipal responsibility to operate.

COMMUNITY:

QUESTION:

- How will a "super school" attract new residents in "older" areas? (no Catholic schools within walking distance)

ANSWER:

Our focus is to provide a quality Catholic education for our students. We are undergoing a pupil accommodation process to ensure that we invest in our students and not in empty classrooms. The proposed plan would provide a 21st Century updated facility, similar to the schools constructed in the newer neighborhoods of Milton, Oakville, Halton Hills, and Burlington.

The Ascension site was selected for its size and central location to the proposed attendance boundary. Choosing this proposed site would increase the number of students able to walk to the new school, reduce the distance for students from home to school, and reduce transportation times well below 20 minutes (each way). Although there would be an increase in the number of students taking a bus, we believe that busing is an active and sustainable mode of transportation for all children.

QUESTION:

- Has the community been informed about these proposals, property owners who may not have kids? As well as about the probability of an adult learning center in these communities?

ANSWER:

Yes. As part of this process we have informed not only the school community but have also provided news releases in the local papers, and provided flyers to all abutting home owners. Staff has also provided information to all affected Catholic School Councils and Staff to maximize awareness of the proposal to the community and gather feedback.

MEMORIAL GARDEN:

QUESTIONS:

- My son has a memorial garden @ ascension as he passed when he was in Gr. 2. He has two sisters still attending there. Is there any way to consider maintaining this sacred space should Ascension's site be considered?
- What will happen with the existing "PEACE GARDEN" located on the Ascension site, and the time capsul that also sits in this area. This area should be saved and be part of the new school design.
- There is a sacred, blessed memorial peace garden at Ascension. What will you do to ensure this garden continues to exist? There are special items underneath some stones. ★

ANSWER:

Preserving and protecting the memorial garden that honours the student's memory at Ascension is very important to the Ascension community, and to our extended school board community. Should the proposal be approved, staff would be in consultation with the school and the family to preserve and relocate the memorial garden in an appropriate location.

PROCESS:

QUESTION:

- Why is there no transparency (i.e. traffic studies, proof we can't buy parkland, etc.)

ANSWER:

There are no current traffic studies for this location. Should this plan be approved, a requirement of the site plan approval process, a traffic study, as well as a number of other requirements will be completed as part of the municipal requirements.

For the matter of purchasing parkland, it is rare that a municipality will sell parkland in an established neighbourhood; in fact, municipalities often have parkland deficits in established neighbourhoods. This was asserted through discussions with the City of Burlington representatives that expressed no available parklands for purchase within the affected area.

QUESTION:

- Who decided that the new school had to be a consolidation of 3 schools? Can we consider only combining 2 instead?

ANSWER:

Given the projected student enrolment, in order to address declining enrolment in all three (3) schools, it would be most beneficial to students to consolidate the three (3) identified schools. A plan

to only consolidate two (2) schools would not address the third school's declining enrolment trend, which would eventually become too small to operate optimally and to provide students with the best Catholic Education possible.

QUESTIONS:

- How is this a real consultation when not all trustees come and those that do don't speak with parents/answer questions publically?
- Why does it seem the trustees don't care about those who elected them?
- Who developed your "consultation" part of the accommodation review? You are speaking at the parent, there is no 1:1 consultation. Also no one is answering our questions!
- This process has been faulty from the beginning. No where has it been adequately demonstrated that the schools need to be closed and that the Ascension site is the most appropriate site for a new school.
- If there are 9 trustees why were only 4 here.
- Why are the trustees NOT publicly answering questions tonight.

ANSWERS

The format of the Community Consultation Meeting was determined as the best way we could provide all parents with an opportunity to have their say in a small group setting, more conducive to conversation. Given the large number of parents and community members who registered to attend, we needed to ensure that we were respectful of everyone's time.

The small group table discussions allowed for individuals to voice their concerns, and have those concerns recorded by a scribe, and subsequently posted online. Also, staff circulated the room during the small group discussions to respond to any questions or provide clarification. There was also an opportunity to write down questions on chart paper (parking lot format).

With respect to Trustee attendance at the Community Consultation Meetings, there is no requirement that Trustees will attend the Community Consultations. That said, each of the three Trustees representing Burlington were in attendance to observe the process at the Community Consultation held on March 2nd. Trustees would not be in a position to respond to questions about the proposed recommendations at this time, as the matter is still under review and they are gathering information and feedback that will help them come to a decision on April 19th.

After the information was presented, those in attendance broke into small group discussions to share feedback. All comments were recorded. Staff were circulating the room during the small group discussions and afterwards to respond to questions and provide clarification.

QUESTIONS:

- How many trustees does it take to vote for or against Modified Pupil Plan
- What is the % of support required for trustees to approve? 50 +1, super majority or 100%?

ANSWERS:

A motion will pass with a simple majority vote in favour of the recommendation.

ADMINISTRATION:

QUESTION:

- Will fewer schools = fewer trustees & superintendents?

ANSWER:

There are a number of factors to determine the number of superintendents. As a base, staffing for a school board is typically based on the number of students (not schools) for administrative, teaching, and support staff.

As for trustees, these are determined by the number of ratepayers that have self-identified themselves in regional municipality, such as Halton Region.

QUESTION:

- If the schools amalgamate, will the Principal of the “new” school be NEW? They should be.

ANSWER:

This will be decided at a later time if the proposal is to move forward. A number of factors would be considered at that time for the appointment of the principal for the new school community.

NUMBERS:

QUESTIONS:

- Where are the census #'s coming from that show a decline on enrollment?
- Who did the actuarial study? Has future change in demographics (e.g. seniors selling to young families) been considered?

ANSWER:

To generate the projections of existing communities, we use actual October 31 student enrolment numbers of the past five (5) years (2011-2015) as a base to develop 15-year enrolment projections. Using 2-5 years of past enrolment trends and retention rates, combined with current October 31 2015 numbers the progression of students (from grade to grade) is calculated.

To further supplement the existing community projection, we use all filed and active development application (subdivision, site plan, and condominiums) to estimate the number of new students yielded from new development units (i.e. a house). In the case of Burlington Southeast QEW, development is very limited, predominantly comprised of high density development (condominiums) that historically yields very few students.

As for Junior Kindergarten (FDK) enrolments, we have reviewed past birth rate trends as well as review Census information from 2001, 2006, and 2011 to monitor the number of school aged children within each community as well as historical participation rates (Catholic vs. public).

All the projections supplied as part of this process have been peer reviewed by a third party consultant, which has confirmed the declining enrolment scenario projected for Burlington Southeast QEW as well as Burlington Southwest QEW.

Neighbourhood regeneration has been a topic that a number of boards in the province of Ontario have been researching for many years. What has been tracked, is that the regeneration of enrolment does not happen in the same amplitude as would be seen in a new development area. Instead, new students slowly materialize over time. The current projections uses this assumption, which does not demonstrate an increase. Furthermore, it has also been witnessed that when families move in to established neighbourhoods, the more predominant age cohort that enters would be at the secondary panel.

QUESTION:

- Has the Board considered the % loss of students (and their parents \$\$) that would choose a closer Public school?

ANSWER:

We believe that the proposed plan is in the best interest of our students, and we hope that our current families and students will choose to stay with us should the proposed plan be approved, and we proceed with the construction of a new school for Southeast Burlington.

OPTIONS:

QUESTIONS:

- Why only 1 model for the new school?
- Is the proposed location the only option?

ANSWERS:

The model that has been presented to the community is a tried and proven model that the Board has been utilizing since the mid-90's. The design maximizes the usage of space within the floor area, and is best suited for the programming of space. Three storey structures are not feasible, as the first floor area would remain relatively the same footprint, presenting no significant site savings.

School design aside, the location of school is not restricted to simply the size of the site. As presented in the table below, there are a number of locational factors that are taken into consideration.

The Ascension site was selected not only for its size but its centrality to the proposed attendance boundary to maximize the walkability to the new school, reduce the distance for students from home

to school, and reduce transportation times well below 20 minutes (each way). Although there will be an increase in transported students, staff still believe that busing is an active and sustainable mode of transportation for all kids.

Lastly, the size of the other sites are not adequate to accommodate all the necessary features on site such as play areas and parking areas. Even with the removal of the 88 place child care centre, staff still does not believe that the other two (2) sites are adequate to construct a 648 pupil place facility.

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION
500-671 FBC/OTG	Based on previous experiences at the Board, and following Ministry Benchmarks defined by the Expert Panel (for school design), the optimal size for a facility's Functional Building Capacity (FBC) is between 500-671 pupil places for the Board. This ensures that a wide range of program, staff, special needs, and extra-curricular options are available to the students.
Transportation Times	As per Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS) Operating Procedure HS-3-004 – Duration of Trip, wherever feasible bus trips shall not exceed 60 minutes for the elementary panel, and 75 minutes for the secondary panel.
Average Distance to School	Consists of an average distance between student households to school accommodations, whereby lower averages typically represent a more centralized location.
Site Size (Approx. 5+ acres)	In order to provide for adequate play space, parking facilities, pick up/drop off, bus loops, and other necessary exterior accommodations, a school site of five (5) or more acres is adequate.
Adjacent Uses	Have consideration for adjacent uses, where some uses are more sympathetic to a school's daily operations than other (i.e. park spaces vs. commercial plaza strips).
Site Limitation(s)	Any additional factors that are unique to each school.

TRAFFIC/SAFETY: QUESTIONS:

- Traffic mitigation on New St.
- Is the increased traffic flow in and out an acceptable level of risk? Have traffic flow studies been done to incorporate increase car volume entering & exiting proposed site?
- Safety and programming are the two main considerations
- what/how will the Board provide a safe zone in front of Ascension?

ANSWER:

There are no current traffic studies for this location. Should this plan be approved, a requirement of the site plan approval process, a traffic study as well as a number of other requirements will be completed as part of the Municipalities requirements.

PROGRAMMING:

QUESTIONS:

- IF schools are becoming smaller as a population why not increase French Immersion – where there is a backlog of students looking for spaces.
- Would the new school be able to offer French Immersion. If so, how many spots?
- Safety and programming are the two main considerations
 - will the board commit to programming at the new school? Parents WANT a commitment to programming – not ‘theoretical’ talk about programming.
- Result on Catholic Education
 - declining #s?
 - competitive programs needed (e.g. French)

ANSWER:

The French Immersion program was offered at Ascension during the 2006-2007 school year, however the school could not sustain the student enrolment numbers to maintain the program.

We are not declining in enrolment entirely across our district. In fact, overall, we are increasing in enrolment as a district, but declining in certain areas such as South Burlington and South Oakville.

We do not have funding for specific renovations. Funding that is approved by the Ministry would not cover refurbishings.

We already have an art teacher in each of our schools – some of the programs already exist. We already have science teachers...the only one we don't have is an instrumental music teacher – this would be certainly explored.

QUESTIONS:

- You stated that we will be building a 21st Century School. Will we get new IT equipment, science equipment, music supplies, etc. in the new facility? Or are you going to move what is existing in our schools (for ex., old computers) into the new facility?
 - and will there be qualified teachers teaching these specialty areas (e.g. music)?

ANSWER:

All existing computer equipment, science equipment, music supplies, etc. that schools currently own would move to the new location. The new school community would upgrade their technology over time. Teachers must be qualified in order to teach in our schools.

QUESTION:

- Are the “larger” schools in H.C.D.S.B. out performing smaller schools w.r.t academic performance?
 - graduation & post-secondary

ANSWERS:

While data we receive from EQAO is just one of the measures we use to identify areas where attention and resources may be needed, as a Board, we do not rank schools or make individual school comparisons.

There is no conclusive data to support a positive relationship between small school size and academic achievement. In fact, there are a number of studies, such as a recent Canadian study from Ontario (Jones and Ezeife, 2011) using EQAO data, which found that there was no significant relationship between school size and achievement at the elementary school level.

At this time there is no mechanism in place to track and compare graduation rates from post-secondary institutions based on school size.



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southeast QEW School Project**

APPENDIX F

From: j moriarty [REDACTED]
Date: January 25, 2016 at 9:36:59 AM EST
To: "michaelj@hcdsb.org" <michaelj@hcdsb.org>
Subject: closure of St. Raphael's

Ms. Michael , if in fact you continue with the closure of St. Raphael Catholic Elementary and deny my family safewalking distance fir my son who next year is in grade 5, I will be forced to leave the Catholic system and enroll him in a public school closer to our house. I am a Catholic high school teacher in the YCDSB. I live in Burlington. I sent my eldest daughter to St. Raphael and now U would like my son to finish his elementary education here. You need to do something and not capitulate to the Ministry of Education, who simply sees bottom line, and has no concern for Catholic families and their children. You really run the risk of alienating our entire school community. I would like a response.

Pauline Whelan

From: Carolyn Pawloski-Gardner [REDACTED]
Sent: January-20-16 5:19 PM
To: Comments <Comments@hcdsb.org>
Subject: Proposal to close St.Raphael School

Hello,

I am a parent to a boy in grade 2 at St.Raphael School. He attends as a cross-boundary student. When it was time for him to attend kindergarten, we looked at a number of schools, both public and Catholic, and chose St.Raphael because in talking to the principal there, we felt it would best meet our son's needs. I am very upset by the proposal that St.Raphael, St.Patrick, and Ascension be consolidated into one large school with a population of 733 students. The reason my son attends St.Raphael is because of the small class sizes, and small population. I have no wish for him to attend a school with a population of 733. As such, I feel I should let you know that should the board move ahead with this plan, I will pull him from the board, and either homeschool him or send him to a private school. As well, when my other children reach school age, they will also not attend the newly built school.

Schools with huge populations are not good for students. There is a greater amount of bullying, less individual attention to student needs, and more stress for students. This is a bad call by the board, and I strongly oppose it.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Pawloski-Gardner

From: [REDACTED]

To: michaelj@hcdsb.org; iantomasia@hcdsb.org; tritess@hcdsb.org; rowem@hcdsb.org; rabendad@hcdsb.org; dankoa@hcdsb.org; karabelah@hcdsb.org; maraip@hcdsb.org; anthonyquinn@hcdsb.org; director@hcdsb.org; business@hcdsb.org; facilities@hcdsb.org; overholtt@hcdsb.org; durrant@hcdsb.org; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Burlington Southeast Pupil Accommodation Review

Date: Tue, 9 Feb 2016 01:42:29 +0000

To All Concerned Parties from a Concerned St. Raphael Parent:

One of my earliest memories is of my First Communion in my lovely white gown at St. Raphael Church, celebrating with my classmates in the parish hall. Several years later it took me months of solemn reflection before I proudly chose my Confirmation name of St. Brigid and it was with shivers of delight and anticipation for what the future would hold when I graduated from St. Raphael Elementary School in 1985.

From that point on a variety of emotions faced my interaction with the St. Raphael community. With tears of joy, I married my husband in our church, as he also was a member of my graduating St. Raph's class. With a sense of belonging, we introduced our three children to God through their baptisms there as well. With anxiety I dropped them off to their first kindergarten mornings at St. Raphael School, only to find comfort in realizing they would receive the same love and care that we did on our first mornings there so long ago. We gained peace in watching our oldest two children affirm their belief in God through their First Eucharist and proudly watched them accept their faith and destiny through Confirmation. As our oldest graduated in the church last spring, it was a culmination of her hard work and the thankfulness to the community that led her on her successful journey that brought me to tears of joy once again. And, it was fighting tears of sorrow that we attended my husband's mother's funeral service in our church mere weeks ago. It is at these times that we appreciate our St. Raphael community, that special bond between home, church and school. Many parents of our children's friends also attended St. Raphael School themselves. And, a few teachers at the school are also St. Raphael graduates. This is a unique strongly knit collective group of families that over the generations have celebrated their sacraments together and shared in their first class education. The St. Raphael community is a living testament to a ***"focus on Achieving, Believing, and Belonging, providing students and staff with the tools for realizing their full potential, while also instilling a life-long commitment to the community."*** Words found directly in the vision statement of our Halton Catholic District School Board.

It is these words that lead me to question the decision to close St. Raphael School.

Achieving: It wasn't until I heard news of the possible closure that I researched the latest release of the Fraser Institute's report on Elementary Schools, only to discover that St. Raphael School has the top ranking of all 45 Burlington Elementary schools in

both the Public and Catholic school boards. First of 45 schools, and I had no idea. This lends credence to the top notch education our children are receiving by the St. Raphael staff. In addition, it highlights the humbleness of this community that this score isn't being publically broadcast. St. Raphael ranks 204th out of 3037 elementary schools in Ontario. This level of achievement isn't something that should be overlooked when examining possible school closures from a strictly academic point of view.

Believing: Our school and church have taught everyone in our family to believe in themselves. It has instilled the belief that hard work will result in success. It has nurtured our belief in a faith that will guide us through the hardest times of our lives, such as we experienced through the recent loss of our matriarch.

Belonging: It is through belonging to this community over the generations that we have developed such a strong sense of self. It is not a fluke that many of our lifelong friendships began and have continued within the bounds of this school and parish.

So once again, I question the need to close this school. I have been a Catholic Secondary teacher for the last 20 years. I have my Principal's Qualifications in addition to holding a Master of Business Administration. These credentials allow me an educational perspective, in addition to a business one. I can see from a strictly business perspective that a logical decision in the face of declining enrolment in South Burlington that an amalgamation of schools may be a viable cost saving. However, I question the logistics that the cost of bulldozing a school and building one from scratch outweighs the cost of renovation. Is the goal of our school board to save money or to create responsible, productive citizens? From what I understand St. Raphael would be left open for adult education, so presumably it would require little renovation to make this cost effective. If that is the case, why close it? Two of the three schools in question have churches. The choice to utilize the school without a church seems to contradict our Catholic school mandate of maintaining a strong unity with our parish. In depriving our students of schools in their walking community to a Catholic school with a church seems to be adding to the crisis of Catholic Education in our province. I fear we will lose many families, and their tax paying dollars, to the public elementary schools in their neighbourhoods, where their children can attend with other children they are growing up with on their streets.

Who is to say that 600 students in a school is the optimal size? I believe the bigger the school, the more problematic will be supervision. So many issues fly below the radar of the teachers and the greater the population, the greater potential for divisive problems erupting.

There will be, without a doubt, some job loss associated with this move. One principal will be required instead of three, perhaps two secretaries could handle the workload instead of three, and if classes are combined to be at their maximum numbers many teachers would be surplussed. For example if there are three classes of Grade Six operating currently with 20 students for a total of 60, will two classes of 30 be acceptable in the new school, thereby eliminating a teacher?

From educationworld.com ***Are Smaller Schools Better Schools?*** “Reforming public education may be as simple as creating smaller schools. The results of two recent studies indicate that small schools may be the remedy for lots of what is wrong with public education. Small schools can reduce the negative effects of poverty, reduce violence, and increase parent involvement and student accountability.”

Essentially this articles sites many studies that support all students benefit from a smaller school size when it comes to standardized test scores, most specifically those from less affluent situations. Students, parents, teachers and community volunteers reported greater satisfaction because they felt more connected to one another. Students reported to researchers that their teachers expected more of them because they knew them well and knew their families. The greatest factor on student achievement was the reduction of anonymity. Going to a school where people know you and your family name made a difference in student success as well as reducing the incidence of fighting and violence as students took more responsibility for their behaviour and the behaviour of their classmates because they all knew each other well. St. Raphael School and Parish are a prime example of the strength the bonds of community can build. In addition, a smaller school can give students more opportunity to “make” school teams and participate in activities that in a larger school they may not have had the chance to make. I also appreciate the fact that I personally know my children's entire classes and knowing that all my older son's grade eight friends are looking out for my younger son in grade one and his friends as well.

In closing, as a product of St. Raphael school myself, I can only hope that I exhibit the seven expectations of a Catholic Graduate. I am a *discerning believer* raised in a Catholic faith community with direct access to my church. I am attempting to be an *effective communicator* by approaching this dilemma with honesty and sensitivity. I hope we can resolve this issue with *responsible decision making* using our moral conscience for the common good. I am trying to use my God given talent to be a *responsible lifelong learner* and educate myself about the issues at stake in this decision. I would hope I can be a *collaborative contributor* in this discussion. And, I know for a fact that my experience with St. Raphael School and Parish community have certainly molded me into the *caring family member* and *responsible citizen* that our Catholic system strives to create. I also feel my children have had the benefit of this upbringing as well and would be very sad to see my youngest child miss out on the positive, loving and caring community that St. Raphael provides each of their students. I truly feel our school board is doing a disservice to Catholic Education by choosing a site without a church and eliminating neighbourhood based communities.

Please include me in any parental capacity required in this review process. And, thank you for your valuable time in reading my concerns.

Kristen Priestner

From: Kristen Priestner [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2016 6:48 PM

To: Michael, Jane; Iantomasi, Arlene; Trites, Susan; Rowe, Mark; Rabenda, Diane; Danko, Anthony; Karabela, Helena; Marai, Paul; Quinn, Anthony; Ross, Danielle; Jones, Karen; Sayers, Donna; Overholt, Tim [REDACTED]

Subject: Burlington Southeast Pupil Accommodation Review March 2, 2016

I would just like to respond to the Modified Accommodation Review meeting held for South East Burlington last evening at Assumption Catholic Secondary School. I am a mother of three (2 of which are at St. Raphael currently in Grade 8 and Grade 1, with the oldest having graduated last year). My husband and myself both attended St. Raphael Elementary and all of our immediate and extended families have had their sacraments at our parish. I am a Catholic taxpayer, and a Catholic Secondary School teacher in Dufferin-Peel for the last 20 years. I have my BA, BEd, MBA, and PQP Part One course so education is something I value tremendously.

I am disappointed with the choice to hold a modified review as opposed to a standard review. Yes, I realize we have met the three criteria (barely the 5 km stipulation) but as Mr. Overholt pointed out, our board has had these plans in the works for two years so there has been ample time to plan for having a full review. By not permitting a standard review (eliminating the need for one less formal community consultation meeting as well as eliminating the establishment of a Review Committee) there seems to be a lack of transparency and a feeling that everything has already been decided. The fact that there will never be a question and answer period frankly mocks the process, in turn, angering parents. Parents are only allowed to input concerns via an on-line blog and survey with little to no response to their individual concerns. People were speaking out in a rude, frustrated fashion while the board planner was allowed to make a presentation last night, but mostly because parents themselves are not being allowed a fair outlet to speak. And, in view of promoting a 21st century school, having us take notes on chart paper seemed like a juvenile exercise, perhaps a laptop or ipad could have been used to lend some professionalism to the situation and ensure all of our information could have been electronically captured and sent to whomever is reviewing this information promptly. It was very limiting in the time permitted to accurately record people's sentiments. The next stage seems to be finding delegates to present to the board meeting. But, delegates must have their presentation approved prior to speaking? Why should the board be able to view the presenter's notes beforehand at a public meeting?

I would like to reiterate my concerns from last night and submit them in this email as I feel the scribe would have been unable to record all of my concerns in a timely fashion.

Starting at the beginning of the package provided to us to do our homework. I question the LTCP, exactly what were the long term student enrolment projections based on? I feel they are predictions based on the history of declining enrolment,

but without concrete data from a census do we really forecast such a drastic decline? As families that have lived in these neighbourhoods for generations, I think we can all attest that many of these homes are occupied by an older generation that will inevitably be moving. We have all witnessed a turnover on our streets with young families slowly moving in. The last Census in 2011 was a “short” one, one that was voted against by the Canadian Catholic Council of Bishops at the time. A return to a “long” Census is happening this year, 2016. With our schools at approximately 80% capacity at the current time, do we really need to rush into amalgamating three schools into an overcrowded facility that ensures even our Kindergarten children will still be using portables in grade 8? This does nothing to serve our current cohort of students, merely looks at cost savings for the board long term.

It was very disheartening that a grand total of 55 seconds of last night’s meeting was spent on the issue of removing two schools from their churches. And, a slide was flipped over so quickly no one had a chance to read it. In view of the crisis in Catholic Education, a very small minute of lip service isn’t going to cut it. OSSTF has been rumoured to be preparing a push for the amalgamation of public and catholic secondary schools, an age old contentious issue. And, the Ontario government had 1700 people respond to a recent survey that their number one priority in the upcoming budget is to look at eliminating the Catholic system. The fact that we are willing to close schools with a church is an optical nightmare for Catholic Education. And, when it comes to sacraments are the classes going to be divided so as to receive their sacrament at their home parish, seems very divisive. I didn’t see a chapel mentioned anywhere in the building plan either. What is setting this school apart from a public school?

I think the piece of the report that offends me the most is the overlay of the cookie cutter new school footprint onto the St. Raphael and St. Patrick sites. Clearly the proposed plan would be impossible to use on those sites, it almost insults the intelligence that paper and coloured ink was wasted printing the layouts last night. Obviously any individual site would require its’ own individual site plan addressing its’ individual needs.

Looking at different options for the future of our schools doesn’t seem to be offered to parents to review. Again, I question whether we are seriously facing a crisis that needs to be fixed immediately. Our schools are at 80% capacity. That means a loss of three teachers from having a full school. I can only speak for St. Raphael but our teachers are handling all the extracurricular activities with much success. Academically St. Raphael is the top rated school in the city, both public and Catholic, according to the Fraser Report of standardized test scores. Our sports teams are constantly in the city and board finals. Over the next few years, with the new Census in hand, can we not examine the possibility of combining two schools at a time? Given that St. Raphael has the smallest footprint, perhaps St. Raphael could attend St. Paul, enjoy the green space and the proximity to a Catholic Secondary School and the interaction with high school volunteers it could provide

instead of being put into an overcrowded situation with portables and asphalt (the new plan seems to have even less grass than St. Raphael currently possesses along the back side of the school) and the new plan would have no liason with the public high school next door. Those children attending St. Paul could easily walk to St. Raphael's church for mass. Ascension could move into St. Pat's (who had a recent renovation), again enjoying green space, the church, the arena and the new plans for the lakeside area. St. John could look north and examine population of another aging neighbourhood at St. Mark's? By selling Ascension's large site on a major road, I am sure the board could fund some renovation at St. Paul to accommodate the joining of two schools. These schools were built to house an optimal 300 – 400 students so combining two schools into one shouldn't be a hardship and will ensure that Catholic families still have neighbourhood schools within walking distance. The proposed plan would leave an 8 km stretch across South Burlington without a Catholic school option. This also affects our real estate value as Catholic families would not look to these neighbourhoods to purchase a home.

This proposed plan seems to hinge on pushing the benefits of extra-curricular programming. I find this difficult to believe. In a mega school, teachers will find it easier to be anonymous. Only one sports team will be in each league, so many children will be left out. Three times the number of children will try out for a team, eliminating many from participating in a sport that they may not have otherwise had the opportunity to play. In the current climate of electronic devices minimizing daily physical activity for our children, it seems a shame to limit them even more. Over half of this new school would be bussed, and studies show bussed students are less likely to be involved in extra-curricular activities as they must catch the bus home for they certainly cannot ride or walk over 4 km down a busy road.

I question the need for a daycare at our location. Even if the city pays for the build, it is using school board property and takes up a footprint on the property that could be green space for our kids and adds even more traffic congestion to a mega school situation. Perhaps a community build with a library or recreational centre would be offer more value to our students.

The new school will be built for 648 students. Forecasting shows 733 students in 2017, not dropping to 646 until 2026. None of our children will be out of portables. The interior rooms of the school will be dedicated to specialty rooms (art, music, library, primary grades). So the majority of our children will be housed in portables every year. Not an ideal learning environment and a big time waster when students have to bundle up to go in to the school to use the facilities and distracting for others. Why put ourselves into an over populated situation for a decade when we can be slightly under capacity and then perhaps combine two schools at a time to come back up to a full house. And, the footprint provided shows the portables on the significant amount of asphalt with very little green space at the back of the yard.

I have concerns about the potential socialization issues that may occur with St. Patrick and Ascension merging next year and then adding St. Raphael into the mix a year later. Especially as we have a few grades with small numbers of girls, it may prove difficult to add a few girls into an existing larger group of girls.

This leads me to the problem I have with a mega school of 733 children. There are bound to be significantly more issues regarding bullying, social media issues, etc. It is far easier for children to fly under the radar of teachers in a larger environment. With today's unique situation of cyberbullying, much of the hateful behavior happens in an on-line environment that school officials have difficulty policing. In an enormous school, there are just far more students to be involved.

Another issue is the bussing that all St. Raphael students will require. Again, in a generation that already does not get enough exercise, we are taking away their ability to ride their bikes or walk. My children enjoy riding the bike path to school together through the fall and spring. This will absolutely not be possible to the new school as the route would be along a very busy road with many intersections and the fact that New Street and Appleby will not have a crossing guard is ludicrous! In fact, we live over 4 km from each proposed location, smack dab in the middle of both proposed sites. Our youngest will be picked up first by the bus and the estimate of a 14 minute bus ride is also greatly underestimated. It takes at least 10 minutes to drive from our house to swimming lessons at Centennial Pool without traffic or stopping to pick up students. I would hazard a guess it will be closer to a 25 minute drive there and back each day. Studies have shown bussed students are less likely to be engaged in extra-curricular activities, report lower grades and poorer levels of fitness, participate in fewer social activities and have poorer study habits.

I also do not necessarily envision a reduction in split classes due to the capped class sizes. Numbers are numbers and if there are extra students over the cap in both grades a split will be necessary. I do understand when there is a very under capacity situation that the split classes are a norm, but split classes exist everywhere and are a necessary evil of meeting our capped size classrooms.

The statement that it will be an easier transition to high school is ridiculous, can we not focus on what our children's needs are in elementary school right now. It is the responsibility of the Intermediate grade teachers to prepare our students properly for secondary school. I have no need for my Grade 1 student to be prepared for high school at this time.

Another concern to me is research based support that a larger school is better for students. I have searched for the last six weeks for some shred of empirical evidence and I have found nothing. Every single research study finds that smaller schools are better for children. They are safer – evidenced by research. They offer better teaching, resulting in higher academic performance (St. Raphael top ranked of all schools in Burlington). Students report feeling safer, attend more frequently, and are more attached to their schools. Bullying and violence decrease as students take ownership of themselves and others because of their familiarity

with each other. Teachers report increased job satisfaction, feel more connected and committed, and demonstrate an increased sense of responsibility, again supported by research.

Yet another issue is the insert delivered to my mailbox that the City of Burlington is putting money in to update the playgrounds at Ryerson and Tecumpseh schools. Why can't our board come to an arrangement with the city as well, that benefits our parks and playgrounds? Why can't the St. Pat location utilize Mohawk Park? The fact that our children cannot play in Strathcona park (as we did when we attended St. Raphael's) is absurd. Is this a problem with the city, or a problem with our church parking lot. An attempt to fix the playground situation by rejigging the parking lot and playground should have been attempted years ago.

And, finally location is troubling for most parents. A proximity to a public high school with beginning drivers. A very busy road without appropriate stop lights and crossing guards. An over-populated parking lot, as most parents may choose to drive their children over an extended bus ride.

In conclusion, I am afraid that at the heart of this matter Catholic Education is being threatened by means of the easy disregard to close schools with churches, as well as the potential loss of Catholic taxpayers due to many families considering a switch to a neighbourhood public school as frankly our family is considering at this point. Maybe our school board needs to take ownership, be forward thinking and rejuvenate our small neighbourhood schools, taking a stand against the ministry's drive to create mega schools that seem to have no empirical shred of evidence that they serve students better.

Kristen Priestner



St. Patrick Elementary School



Community Input Survey

St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School

RE: Modified Pupil Accommodation Review

Submitted by: St. Patrick Catholic School Council

February 16, 2016

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Introduction

The St. Patrick's Catholic School Council would like to submit the following survey results to the Board for their consideration, and as part of the community consultation regarding the Modified Pupil Accommodation Review.

As Council we felt that it was important to provide parents and caregivers in our community the opportunity to have their opinions heard. This survey was developed for that purpose and to understand the general feeling of our community with regards to the pending amalgamation.

It is our expectation that Board staff and Trustees will review these comments in their entirety, and seriously consider the impact of this proposed amalgamation on our community as well as the other communities involved.

Overview

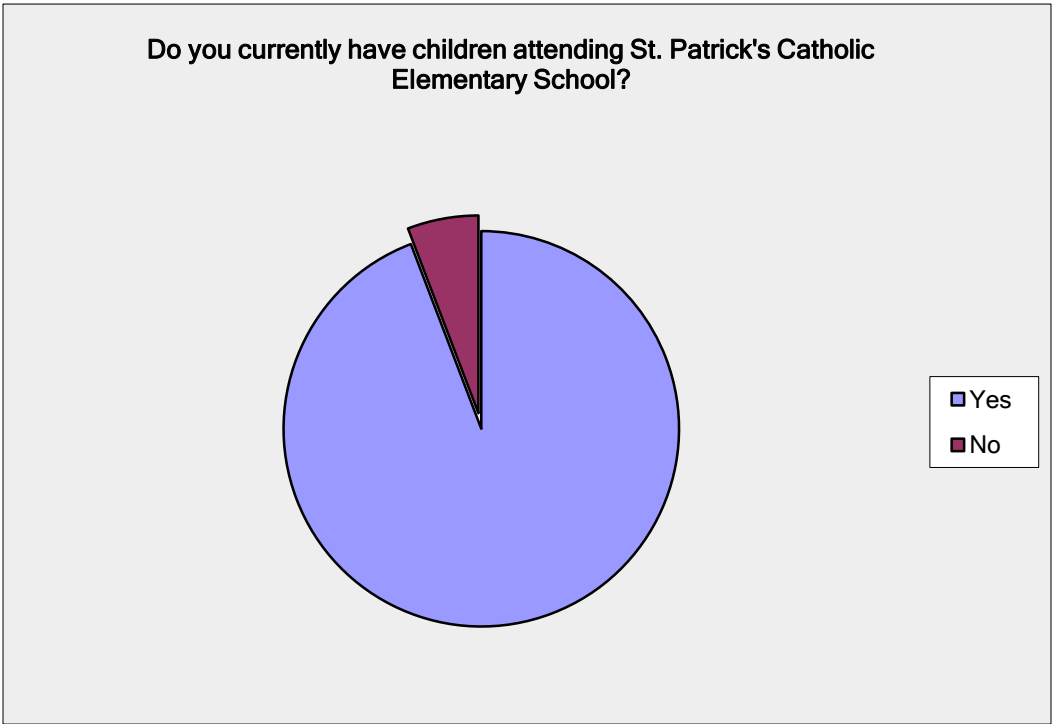
Below are some highlights of the survey to be considered as context for the results:

- This survey was developed by the members of the St. Patrick's Catholic School Council
- The survey was open for responses from Tuesday February 2nd, 2016 – Tuesday February 9th, 2016
- In total we received 132 responses to the survey, St. Patrick's School currently has 160 families
- The survey results are completely anonymous

Community Input Survey Results

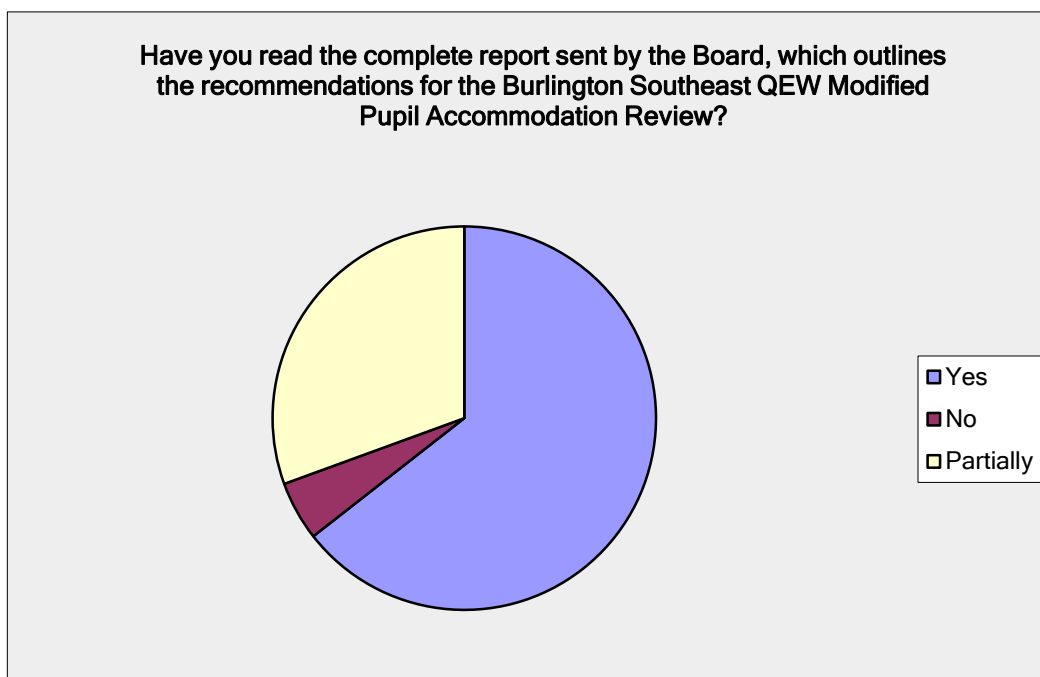
Question 1

Do you currently have children attending St. Patrick's Catholic Elementary School?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	94.2%	114
No	5.8%	7
answered question		121
skipped question		11



Question 2

Have you read the complete report sent by the Board, which outlines the recommendations for the Burlington Southeast QEW Modified Pupil Accommodation Review?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	64.5%	78
No	5.0%	6
Partially	30.6%	37
answered question		121
skipped question		11

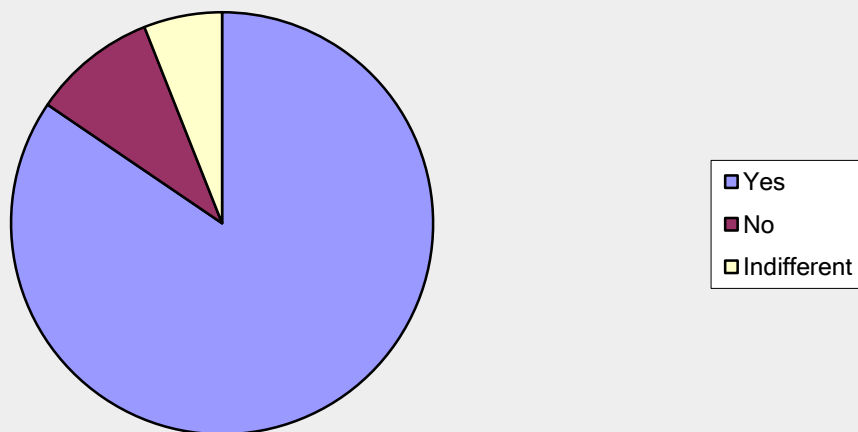


Question 3

Would you be in support of St. Patrick Catholic School Council recommending to the Board that our school location is the ideal site for the building of the new school?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	84.5%	98
No	9.5%	11
Indifferent	6.0%	7
answered question		116
skipped question		16

Would you be in support of St. Patrick Catholic School Council recommending to the Board that our school location is the ideal site for the building of the new school?



Question 4

Do you have any comments on the recommendations from the Board as they have been outlined in the Modified Accommodation Review report?	
Answer Options	Response Count
	108
<i>answered question</i>	108
<i>skipped question</i>	24

- No
- St Patrick's is the better location for all parties involved
- Would be nice to have the school beside the church. I went to St. Patrick also and would be sad to close it
- We would rather the school be at St. Patrick's due to the fact the St. Patrick's church is right there. It will also save cost with transportation. Not to mention a safe environment.
- Location of St Patrick School next to St Patrick Church is perfect and very important to our faith and continent for kids to attempt any Church services just like tomorrows Ash Wednesday. St Patrick location is also next to large Park that could (should) be turned in to sport field. Kenwood Street is nice and quiet and does not have too much traffic .New Street location has crazy traffic and is very unsafe to walk and drive all day. Location next to High school with not so good reputation in a City and teenagers all over the front yard smoking all day is not a good for young kids too.
- None at this time
- No
- I don't agree with the location of the new accommodation for safety reasons (hi vehicular traffic)
- Moving a primary school onto one of the busiest streets in Burlington is a bad idea.
- Not at this time.
- No specific questions at this time. Would like to hear feedback from the St. Patrick community.
- It does seem foolish to demolish the suggested buildings, after having spent much money on updating our schools. The three Burlington primary schools may have declined enrolment but in these areas households are being revitalized, older homeowners are moving out, young families are moving in and will once again utilize community schools.

Smaller schools for primaries mean that the staff has a better knowledge of individual needs and character of the students, for example, better opportunities to prevent bullying. The "Neighborhood Watch" effect allows the children to be outdoors more safely in their own neighborhood.

The government talks about the health benefits of children walking to and from school yet busing would be commonplace if these schools were amalgamated.

Having schools next to the Church is very important as many families no longer attend Sunday mass and the school is the only vehicle to understanding the Catholic faith. The priest can pop in and becomes a friend, children can attend Mass easily in the church, not in the gym as many schools do.

The extra parking facilitated by the Church next door means it is MUCH safer for pedestrians and drivers on a school day, not to mention on special events i.e. receiving the sacraments.

- No comment
- The St. Patrick school yard is too small to accommodate a school larger than its current footprint.
- 1. The Ascension location is on a very busy main street and therefore safety will be an issue especially when it is going to hold 649 children not to mention traffic issues which will also be a safety concern for many.
- 2. Closing schools that are on the same property as the church does not seem to be the best choice as that connection will not be the same if not lost.
- 3. If some schools need to be closed I suggest closing ascension which in my opinion is not on a safe location and has no church connected to it.
- I think ,to keep the school where it is ,is a big acet especially in the rush hourseach area will have their student aroundI spoke with other parents we are willing of supporting financially the schoolIn stand of moving from a quiet , safe ,closed to home place as is nowThe school got a good rating.... gathering school are y going to increase the no of students in class as y know the best outcome is maximum 13students /teacher
- I am not a fan of a new school on New St, New St will always have worse access for any drop off and pick up. I think the St. Patrick's site makes more sense. The site is slightly smaller but off any main road. Secondly the site on New St may be more valuable if sold by the board.
- I feel that the current location of at Patrick's is perfectly suited for an elementary school, building one next to high school would not be a wise choice in my opinion. Many Elementary children walk to school and many high school students are new drivers. I feel it would be a safety concern.
- No comments at present.
- I believe the 3 schools should definitely be consolidated. I also believe there are way too many schools both public and catholic in a relatively close distance to each other. That being said consolidation makes sense and generally bigger schools make sense.

The current site of St. Patrick School makes a lot of sense for building a future bigger school even though it may have a smaller overall site area than Ascension. It is located close to the church and I believe that is the idea of Catholic schools that they should create a strong Catholic partnership. It would also be beneficial for the future of the parish.

- This area is a growing community and those moving to this area are coming based also on this school and location. The school ratings have been high and the size is also a plus so that part is concerning. It should be about the students and learning. You would not close a church and put them together. This is a strong community and very important to those that live here.
- No.
- No
- My family and I are very satisfied with the education that my daughters receive in St. Patrick. We would like the board continue supporting and develop this kind of education.

- Please choose the current location for the school. Way safer and better surroundings with Church rather than a high school next door.
- I believe that the St Pat's site is the perfect site for the new school. This is based on the fact that it is located in a quiet community vs Ascension on New Street, and we are located next to St Patrick church. This alone will save on transportation costs for bussing students to and from mass.
- No
- I think that it is a horrible idea. Not one single person that I spoke to agrees with it, especially the families that go to the three schools. It would be much longer for my children to walk to school, and I love how small the other schools are (including st pats). It gives the children a more personal relationship with the staff and having smaller classes I find, in experience is better for the kids. Many of the families I spoke to said they would just transfer their children to Mohawk, since it is so much closer and easier.
- The proposed location of Ascension is not ideal in my opinion. The school is on a very busy street and would be dangerous for children. I also have a concern with the school being so close to a high school. By losing our location at St. Patrick's we would lose our close proximity to the church, which really helps foster the school, home, church link.
- I think the amalgamation of the 3 schools is a great idea!
- There is no question that ST. Patrick site would be the best for the new school. Considering safety of the children, it would be located away from the main, busy street.
- The Board should keep all three schools open.
- I would prefer that the location of the new school be at St. Patrick's and not Ascension
- St. Patrick's current location is an ideal spot for young children with regards to their safety and education.
- Our family feels that the home, school and parish connection is a strong one at this point and necessary. With the school and church having close proximity to one another, as they do now, there are many connections that can be made. It goes far beyond convenience and daycare for us. It is a sense of community. The connection between all three elements. St. Patrick's School is a special place and although we don't like the idea of coming together as three schools in one, we do know that the building itself will be beautiful and have everything our students need, but the question is, are they really lacking anything right now? St. Patrick's School is a place where education, faith and community are important. This needs to continue.
- No
- The recommendations place insufficient value on the benefit of school-church proximity. One only need consult the current church bulletin to see that the majority of Lenten activities for St. Patrick's students are held at the church forming a strong connection with the church at a young age. Ascension students meanwhile have all of their activities in the school and have no such opportunity to develop a strong connection to the church.

Furthermore, activities like church choir are successful at St. Patrick's as students are able to walk to the church for weekly practice.

- None
- From what we can see – the decision to move to the Ascension site seems to be solely based on the acreage. St. Patrick is not that much lower than the minimum requirements of 5 acres and when the other factors are looked at, St. Patrick seems to be a more viable location. Have any alternatives been reviewed to explore how and if the St. Patrick site can circumvent the 5 acre requirement? Build a slightly smaller school and keep St. Raphael or Ascension open? I

see that portables will still need to be built at the Ascension site to accommodate students, this doesn't make sense to build for a few years until potentially the numbers start to decrease. The thought of having our daughter in a portable each day is concerning as they are segregated from the rest of the school and pose other safety issues when walking to and from the main building for bathroom breaks etc. It's an unfortunate thing to have to worry about but this is the reality of our world.

We believe there has to be a better argument for the Ascension site other than it simply meeting the 5 acre criteria. The decision should encompass many factors - all of which should - at the end of the day - serve our children in the best possible way. Especially being a Catholic School now removed from a neighbouring Catholic church. What will be put in place of the school if it were to be decommissioned? There isn't much that can go into that residential space that wouldn't appear out of place.

- Is the time-frame to implement the consolidation of schools really realistic? It seems very quick and fast paced which adds to the unease the community feels about making a change.
- In order for children to feel secure and safe emotionally and cognitively, they need a sense of stability and familiarity from students and teachers. Children grow best in an environment that is small rather than large.

I understand the importance of what the board is trying to implement but the students success rate educationally and emotionally will impact the children negatively. Success comes in numbers. How could a child become successful when you place them into a classroom of 20 kids to 45 students. They are going to feel overwhelmed and they aren't going to receive the one on one attention they need in these growing years. All the government wants to do is save money on the cost of staff but inevitably the children will suffer. How much more successful is a public school other than a Catholic?

I don't think it's fair to move children especially the grades from JK till grade 8. Their minds need to grow at a capacity they can understand.

Please reconsider this change. Isn't it enough that the school board has implemented JK and SK full day program. Children are not machines they are humans. Push them too hard and they will fail. I came from Trinidad and Tobago and I can say out of experience it's hard struggling in school with so many students and education pushed upon children because of money cutbacks.

- Students vs. Traffic - A large number of students would have to cross New Street, an extremely busy main thoroughfare, to access the Ascension CES site. Will students south of New Street be bussed? This is unlikely. The crossing guards are excellent, but a quieter neighbourhood with less traffic and reduced speeds would be a better choice.

Site Size -The St. Patrick site is just under the minimum site size. How was 5 acres as the minimum site size determined, in detail?

Timeline Confusion - The report, dated January 2016, proposes an approximate timeline as feasible in Section 5.3 on page 17. Using the report's most aggressive time estimates for the phases MPAR (3 mo.), Grant Funding Process (3 mo.), Pre-construction (12 mo.) and Construction (12 mo.), I come up with a fastest possible occupancy date of 2018/19 school year in the new school. Why does the report show the 2017/18 school year as feasible for occupancy? See Transition Planning below.

Transition Planning - Is the 2017/18 occupancy date referring to the earliest date when Ascension students could be accommodated at St. Patrick during construction? Using 2015 enrolment numbers, St. Patrick (253) and Ascension (270) together would mean fitting 523 students in St. Patrick, a school with a capacity of 337. That is a facility utilization percentage of 155%, surely not acceptable even for 1 year.

- Concerned about the transition year and moving all Ascension students to St. Patrick site. Believe disruption will affect programming for two years both in transition year and when

students are relocated to new school.

- I feel that St Patrick's being closed and moved to the Ascension would not be a good idea since the children will be pulled out of a community filled neighbourhood school that is right beside the church to be put on a main road right next to a public secondary school.
- No
- Please consider building the new school at St Patrick location as the new location on a busy road does not seem like the right decision.
- Concern over transportation issues - too far to walk/too close for bussing.
- I'm concerned about the new proposed site on a busy street and being away from the church. Also, the out of boundaries students....how are they affected?
- No.
- As a Catholic School Board, it is imperative that we try to maintain school locations that are "attached" to a church. Also, having a school located on a smaller, less busy street provides a safer option for families.
- One of the main reasons we send our kids to catholic school is so that their faith can grow. Having Father Ray and the church next door is crucial to our children's faith development. New Street is a major juncture and not one I would be comfortable having my kids crossing every day. If there is ever an accident on the QEW, New street acts as a by-pass making it even more busy. St. Pats is the newest school of the three. Our kids have had to go through having a teacher pass away, their principal changing and now that we may have to move schools as well. We can do better than this, the children of St. Pats have gone through more in 2 years than most primary and Jr schools will in their career. After all it's about the kids.
- I'm not happy with the fact that the new facility that they are proposing to build will be over capacity and will require portables as soon as it is built. Why not built it to the current needs of the students (enrollment for 2017-2018)?! We are getting sub-par accommodations with the new facility.

Will children from St. Patrick's now be eligible for busing to school if the Ascension site is chosen? There were no details on this in the report.

How is St. Patrick's school supposed to accommodate the children from Ascension while the new school is being built?

- No
- No
- It makes more sense as it is a newer school, it requires less investments and it has no eligible riders.
- These changes are the beginning of the end to Catholic Education in South Burlington.
- I have major concerns.
- I will need to read the whole report
- Not at this time
- - The new site for the school being on New street is horrible. If this is the case, I will be sending my child to the public school in short walking distance. I am not alone in this view. A family on my street planned to send their kids to St. Patricks next year but due to the risk of the site closing they registered for public school instead.

- The St. Patrick site is much more appropriate for children than the busy new street site (next to a high school and public pool). St. Patrick is next to the church, parkland, trees, on a relatively quiet street - there is no comparison. How can the school board even suggest New Street as a site? New street was much different 50 years ago - it shouldn't even be contemplated for an elementary school in 2016.

- The report states that 0% of current St. Patrick students are eligible for transportation (table states current and proposed state). This means that approximately 250 families will have to cross new street, through side streets that are already busy with Pineland and Robert Bateman traffic (Eg. Meadowhill, Cherryhill, Adam St., Hampton Heath, etc.). There are no crosswalks across new street and closest lights are at Appleby, Adam Street and Hampton Heath. This is not a safe or realistic walk for kids or families coming from the south end and will be a nightmare drive during drop off and pick up for the overall community.

- given my point above what are the plans to ease traffic congestion and create safe walkways on across new street?

- I don't trust the enrolment projections. Has the Burlington 25 year strategic plan (video recently released), Lakeside village, Skyway arena, Burloak Park developments been factored into the demographic and enrolment projections? All attract younger families to the area.

- Why build a school requiring 4 portables on day one? With the fact that the catchment area will be so big, and it will be a new school, and with the plans to increase the population in Burlington, I don't understand why all students can't be accommodated within the safety of school walls.

- Why wasn't the st. Patrick site chosen? We have access to the parkland for play and relationship with the church. Pg 8 of the report states that the site should be at least 5+ acres where *feasible* for re-build sites in established neighbourhoods. What's feasible for 4 acres with use of adjacent parkland? Is the plan for a one level or two level school? We accommodate 377 students on one floor today - why couldn't we add a second floor within generally the same footprint?

- The transition will be particularly disruptive with approximately 200 students having to reside in portables. Are there any other alternatives? How many portables will be required?

- St Pats is next to the church and a much quieter safer street for young students!
- Because of the green space and St. Patrick being the newest school, I feel it should be added onto. I do not want my children crossing New Street, and I certainly do not want them beside a high school. It is my preference they stay beside a church. If the board goes ahead and rebuilds Ascension for all the students, I will put my kids in Mohawk Gardens. I am absolutely against the closing of St. Patrick's.
- I currently have 2 children at St. Pat's and our oldest just started high school. We moved to this neighbourhood to be in a smaller community and for our kids to be in a smaller school. We moved from north Oakville where the streets don't feel safe and the schools are over populated. Any new family that has moved into this neighbourhood has moved for the same reason.

The land that we have right now is approximately 1.5 acres smaller than Ascensions land and has the same access for buses and plenty of parking. St Patrick's is conveniently close to the church and on a quiet street. Just a couple blocks away there is a baseball diamond and skating rink for winter physical activity.

During the holidays the children have the opportunity to visit the seniors centre to sing Christmas carols which is walking distance.

All in all our community has grown close over the years and we can all keep watch for each other's children. If our school closes it will break up our community, inconvenience our children and parents

- - The plan to build a school on the Ascension grounds on New Street would place our children near an extremely busy main road with constant traffic and next to a high school.
- It also appears the planning is for 648 students when undoubtedly the enrollment is projected to be higher for the years my child would be attending, almost guaranteeing she will be learning in a portable from the first day onward.
- As parents we are worried about the safety of our child crossing the busy area every day.
- When deciding to relocate to Burlington in 2015, our family extensively researched the Catholic Schools in the area and chose St. Patrick ultimately because of its high FI ratings, location and proximity to the Parish we would attend as a young catholic family. We made the decision to purchase our home after the selection of our daughter's school because it was imperative that her school experience be supported by a community environment. She will participate in the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation while attending St. Patrick and what a privilege to have both her school and Church so closely affiliated and supported by each other.

In the proposed plan she would be farther from that experience. We strongly feel the current St. Patrick property on Kenwood Ave is an excellent site and location to build on and from for the future of these many young children.

- I have a concern how they are going to accommodate all of Ascension students at St. Patrick while Ascension is being rebuilt. Also we would much prefer to have the new site next to the Church.
- New street is a very busy area for kids to be playing near. I also have concerns about our kids being so close to a public high school. I am fearful of what I have seen right out in front of Robert Bateman high school and would not want my young kids influenced by this behaviour .
- No
- Not Yet
- Would greatly prefer the new school to be built on the current St. Patrick's site. One of the reasons we choose to purchase our current home was the proximity to St. Patrick's and its above average school scores.
- None that I haven't already brought forward through council.
- Thoughts on the Modified Accommodation Review:
3.5 Table 4 - The Board wants to build a new school with a capacity of 648, but their own projections show that won't be the enrolment number until 2025, so would my children be in a portable for 10 years? Why would the Board build a school just to have portables there for 10 years? How can 21st Century Learning be better provided in a portable than the current St. Patrick building?

3.6 Table 5 - Students that would currently go to St. Patrick's would be ineligible for busing? As we live near St. Patrick's the distance from there to Ascension is unacceptable for a 4 year old to walk. Especially the long way from Hampton Heath down New Street.

*The Board claims that Southeast Burlington is a 'maturing' neighbourhood. From first-hand experience, when a house is sold in our area, it is a young family or a young couple that purchases the home. This area is been 'turning over' for several years and there is no sign that it is 'matured' at all.

4.3 Does the report take into account that St. Patrick's was renovated several years ago? It seems to be implying that everything is from 1970

4.5 Does the Board not value the synergy of school and church? If that is important, why keep

the site of Ascension with no church instead of St. Patrick's? The church recently purchased new Stations of the Cross, with the intent purpose of teaching children. Some children's only exposure to church life is through the school. Why not make it easy and comfortable for them?

- Yes my comments on the recommendations are as follows:

* From a safety perspective having young children away from a high traffic busy dual carriageway is the most logical conclusion

* Having our Catholic Children next to their parish/ catholic church should be a major consideration

* Access and egress off a main road is both unsafe and worrying especially at pick up and drop off for some children as young as 3 whereas St Patrick's offers the ability to enter from many arteries.

* The predicted enrollment student numbers do not correspond with the changing demographic in the area (Real Estate report numbers for the years 2014 to date state that over 300 homes have been bought and sold) hence bringing new young families into our neighbourhood

- No because I really don't care as I will move my daughter to school with French Immersion.
- No
- Attached a summary focusing on some of key points of accommodation review would probably increase engagement in this process. I imagine people might feel overwhelmed attempting to review the entire report.
- No comments
- Catholic education (both elementary and secondary) will be DESTROYED with the elimination of St. Patrick, St. Paul and St Rafael schools!
There is a decline of elementary student population affecting both the HCDSB as well as the HDSB.

If we shut down the proposed Catholic elementary schools we are sure to see an even greater decrease of overall number of students attending Catholic elementary schools. Guaranteed many students will attend nearby public elementary schools in their neighbourhoods rather than be bused to either Ascension or St. John's.

The HDSB in south Burlington will be the one to benefit at both the elementary level (Mohawk Gardens, Tuck, Tecumseh) and ultimately secondary level benefiting Nelson, Bateman, Central, Aldershot. We will close our Catholic elementary schools while the public board attracts our students by merely staying open and having prime locations in our south Burlington neighbourhoods.

Having "super" elementary schools (Ascension and St. John's) does not have the children's best learning environment and dwindles the tightly knit community of St. Patrick and St. Rafael's.

Also, the school and church bond works best by being closely connected not only emotionally but physically. There was a good reason for schools and churches to be next to each other. School mass at the church, easy access to the church priest, including priest visits or even kids just seeing the priest nearby and saying "hi" is all eliminated.

In the long run, when students attend their neighbourhood PUBLIC school they are very unlikely to want to attend a Catholic high school. This proposal not only affects the Catholic elementary schools but also ASSUMPTION H.S. Closing three (3) feeder schools will definitely chip away at the enrollment at ASSUMPTION H.S. and shut down our only Catholic South Burlington high school. What better way to shut down Assumption!!!

- I am very worried about what Modified Accommodation means - I can see why they would want to do it however I'm worried about the impact of what that means for the school and ultimately our children. We love St. Patrick and how small it is - that's why we wanted to send our children there. Our twins know everyone and everyone knows them - this is very comforting. We have moved into our area 5 years ago since then more than 50% of homes have been up for sale with younger families moving in and senior homeowners moving out - on what data have the projections been made? Has anyone looked at recent census(how recent?) or real estate data?

- N/A

- There's a little confusion on the distance eligible for buses for students at St Patrick to attend Ascension. The recommendation suggests St Patrick students do not require a bus based on 1.4km away however we are 1.7 I'm away from Ascension. As well the church is not in walking distance for the children.

Thanks

- no
- No

- I am looking Forward to a larger student enrolment and a larger staff for extracurricular activities etc.

- St. Patrick's is a beautiful community close knit school with the Parish right beside that keeps our community together. It would be tragic to lose this in modern day. It is of great benefit to the children to learn and grow up in this environment where everyone knows and supports each other. This is key to the upbringing of children these days to instill these important values and is lost in the larger schools.

- Greenland areas need to be considered. Kids need grass and tress- not pavement to play on.

- The plan is to build a school on the Ascension grounds on New Street. for only 648 students when the enrolment is projected to be higher for at least the next 10 years, requiring 4 portables from day 1 is absurd. My child will go from St. Patrick's, a lovely treed and local location, part of a community and next to their parish church, to an exceptionally busy main road next to a high school (vs Catholic Church), which is too far and unsafe to walk to. I'm extremely worried about safety, about travel, about my overall child's experience.

I'm not sure how these 10 year projections can be made when real estate reports state that in the area alone in the past 2 years over 300 homes have been bought and sold bringing young families in to our beautiful neighbourhood, so forgive me for not believing the enrolment projections. I moved here 2 years ago and was very thoughtful in my school choice. I'm therefore devastated there are plans to close the school.

- Why build the new school on a busy road with no church next door?

- St. Patrick's school is an integral part of our community. One of the reasons we chose this schools was because of the community feeling our children get from the teachers and staff. Our children are not lost among many hundreds of kids, classrooms and portables. To move from a school of 250 with 75% utilization, to one of 733 with 113% utilization would be an overwhelming experience - one that my children will be faced with part way through their elementary school experience. No benefit proposed from this report would outweigh the disruption this experience would have to their educational experience.

- No

- None

- For me as a parent I don't want my kids(my son and daughter) to be transferred to different school specially my son he has special needs St Patrick has given him so much program and it helps him a lot and they still helping him and me to work on his special needs and Its gonna be

difficult for him to change his routine and to see new people around him..and my daughter she loves being there she loves her teachers and friends she learns a lot in that school so I hope they will stay where they are now...Thank you so much

- I have 3 daughters at St. Pat's The reason we do not wish to have the school moved is that we feel it is safer to have the school in an urban location. Re-locating the school across a busy road (New Street) is adding an un-necessary element of danger to my children. We also love the small community and church feel of a smaller school. Please do not make it a Super school. Burlington already has too many of them
- As we are a faith based community, and as a province are always fighting to keep our Catholic education alive, it seems important to maintain a school that resides beside a church. The connection between the church and school is an important part of Catholic education. Our school is situated off of a main street thus less busy for the proposed number to students. What's more, there have been proposals to revamp the area around Skyway arena as well as Lakeside Plaza. This will inevitably bring more young families into the area. Destroying St. Pat's school will deter families from moving into the area that are seeking a Catholic education for their children.
- No
- Yes, I'd like to understand where they are obtaining their information on what the population of children will be in 10 years.

I do not like that it is being proposed to be built on a very busy street and most importantly beside a high school. So much so, that if we can't collectively change the proposed location I may pull my daughter from the Catholic board and place her into the public system. This is truly not something I want to do but Assumption is not, in my opinion, a safe location for my young daughter to attend school.

- I would hope that for the consideration of the pupils who may be relocated and the families affected that the school board carefully takes into consideration the impact it will have on both the community and the students
- 1) I feel that the St. Patrick's location is ideal as it isn't on a major street.
2) I do live in the St Patrick's community, but I am pretty much right in the middle of St Pats and the proposed site for the new school. I think that the community, although mature, is not going to decline in youth. If anything, there is a turnover of residence here showing that young families are replacing the existing individuals. I think that the numbers at St Patrick's will grow over the years and not shrink.
3) If the new location is a "Go", I recommend adding a stoplight at Meadowhill and new street to accommodate all the people that will be walking from the St. Patrick's territory.
- No
- Ascension site is too busy, traffic dangerous for our kids crossing at New Street. The volume of cars in the area will only increase with the number of parents that would have to drive their kids to school.

Question 5

Can you outline some rationale as to why/why not, in your opinion, St. Patrick's would be the better location for the new amalgamated school?	
Answer Options	Response Count
	89
<i>answered question</i>	89
<i>skipped question</i>	43

- No
- That it is beside the church and it would be a lot to transport kids to the church. Nice being away from a high school (Robert Bateman beside Ascension) and busy street
- I like that it's beside the church. I also like the location. I feel that it's a safer environment for the students to travel.
- Location, green areas, less traffic
- don't have any
- I do not support the amalgamation of schools as I prefer a smaller school as well as the location is on a quiet street which makes it much safer for the students. Also the new school will be on the north side of New street which I would have to cross with 2 small children not making it again safe for my children and I.
- St Patrick location is better because it is a quiet neighbourhood with less vehicular traffic. New street is a dense vehicular traffic especially when there are issues on the highway and is prone to speeding.
- Being that St. Patrick's elementary is not located on a main road, there would less disruption to the public thereby it might serve as the better location.
- Due to the proximity to parks, arenas, and quieter traffic, away from high schools, it would be a much better location.
- If the schools were amalgamated, St Pat's would be good. If the new school was built in the existing space, the children who currently attend would be allowed to continue in the present building to finish their primary years without upheaval.
- Assuming buses would be necessary, it would create a great deal of vehicular traffic on a small residential street. However, the other schools are on an already busy four lane street. Student safety is a concern either way.
- No comment
- See #4.
- 1. location is on a safe neighbourhood away from busy intersections and has a church on its property
- 1. There are schools already on New street road ...the road is already crowded....

- I explained this in last comment.
- Other than the safety concerns just listed, I feel that having the school next to the church Reinforces the Catholic message and strengthens the community. It promotes the church and gives students easy access for school time services which I would hope are being taking advantage of.
- See point 4.
- The other two school and on a very busy street and not ideal for young children to be coming and crossing. St. Patrick's is a long standing location that has space to be built and is in a growing location.
- I believe the area is better suited. The church is right next door and it's not a busy road area. Also it's not next to a high school.
- Small school is perfect for that neighborhood
- I am not sure if the location is the best. But for my family and other families that we live around of this school is totally benefit for us.
- Safer

Next to church safe

Not on busy busy road

Mature and quiet area

Children can safely walk to school
- The St Patrick's school would be a much better location. The street is much better suited for a school, all areas around the school are no more than 50 km, with most streets actually being 40. Contrasted with New street having areas leading up to the school zone that are 60 km and that New street is a major roadway in Burlington (especially during times during QEW closures).

The proximity to the church makes it much easier to have students visiting the church, participating in masses. At the St. Patrick's school location the students could walk. The Ascension location would require students to take buses.
- 1. THE LOCATION- it is on such a busy busy street. Having 600 students there would be so dangerous, especially the younger ones.
- 2. S.t Patrick's has a church right beside it. It is so much more practical.
- 3. St. Patrick's has so much more field space, and baseball diamond and a forest. It is a beautiful area for a school and creates a safe environment for the kids, being on a buy road- with no filed basically (especially for 600 children) seems ridiculous
- No
- - better green location

- safer for the kids that walk/bike to school as they don't have to be on the main busy street
- The school is in a quiet neighbourhood, the children are safe from traffic and busy streets, the school is next door to the parish therefore encouraging the children to participate and connect with the church.
- I do not feel comfortable sending my young children to a school beside high school students. This is completely inappropriate and unacceptable. The safety issues with high school drivers,

smoking, drugs, etc have no place next to an elementary school.

- As outlined in question 4, I think that the biggest rationale is the home, school and parish connection. There is so much available to the students at St. Patrick's School due to the close proximity of the church. All of the school masses are in the church. There is something to be said about that. We are trying to save Catholic Education, not get rid of it. Another huge reason for the location is safety. New Street is a much busier street than Kenwood. Safety and security is a big deal. With the proposed development of Skyway Arena and Recreation Complex, students will be able to utilize that centre and be able to do a lot of awesome programming right across the street. Just a few weeks ago, our Junior students were able to go skating. Another community connection made for students. We also have the ability to connect with the elderly - the choir went and visited Sunrise I believe at Christmas time. They didn't have to get on a bus... they walked down the street. All of these may seem like little things but the truth is, it's important. It's important to make connections and to feel like a greater community. With the location at St. Patrick's, all of these things can continue.
- St. Patrick's location is better suited given it's proximity to the namesake church. Further, the Ascension site is located next to a public secondary school whose students pose potentially ill influence on elementary school children.
- The fact that the church is right there gives St. Patrick's the better location and there are no building constraints due to area of land.
- St. Patrick is surrounded in a nice quiet residential neighbourhood, not located on a main street and is next to a Catholic church with a lot of greenery around. Ascension is on a busy main street next to a Community Centre with a high school next door to that.

Being on a quieter street, adjacent to a park, a church and another elementary school was a perfect environment for us to expose our daughter to. Most importantly we feel our daughter is safe in the current Kenwood Ave. location. Our daughter's safety was obviously on top of our list when selecting her school and the idea of being next to a community centre and High School was quite concerning and is now a greater concern with the thought of a potential move.

The fact that St. Patrick is a smaller school I believe is another reason that they rank so much higher on the Fraser Institute site for school rankings (as well as the other schools in question). Less kids isn't always a bad thing, kids are getting much more attention, academically more advanced and they feel like a part of the school as a whole and not just a number. It is a safe and comfortable feeling for both my daughter and ourselves. We have reviewed the stats on the other schools in the area, and noticed that there are a number of children enrolled in St. Patrick who are from outside the boundaries and this speaks volumes. Maybe they have the same concerns as we did or maybe not, but more Catholic children are moving into the neighbourhood area of St. Patrick (and Ascension) as the aging population is moving out.

From what we can see - the decision to move to the Ascension site seems to be solely based on the acreage. St. Patrick is not that much lower than the minimum requirements of 5 acres and when the other factors are looked at, St. Patrick seems to be a more viable location. Have any alternatives been reviewed to explore how and if the St. Patrick site can circumvent the 5 acre requirement? Build a slightly smaller school and keep St. Raphael or Ascension open? I see that portables will still need to be built at the Ascension site to accommodate students, this doesn't make sense to build for a few years until potentially the numbers start to decrease. The thought of having our daughter in a portable each day is concerning as they are segregated from the rest of the school and pose other safety issues when walking to and from the main building for bathroom breaks etc. It's an unfortunate thing to have to worry about but this is the reality of our world.

We believe there has to be a better argument for the Ascension site other than it simply meeting the 5 acre criteria. The decision should encompass many factors - all of which should - at the end of the day - serve our children in the best possible way. Especially being a Catholic School now removed from a neighbouring Catholic church. What will be put in place of the school if it were to be decommissioned? There isn't much that can go into that residential space that wouldn't appear out of place.

- I will send a separate document to council outlining our thoughts on why St. Patrick School would be a better location for the new amalgamated school. The board has done a great job outlining from a cost and board perspective why Ascension is a preferred option but there are many other factors to consider from a community perspective before making a recommendation.
- No school is a better amalgamated school. But if I had to be selfish and self-centered, St. Patrick's Elementary school has Mrs DeLuca -Mallett is by far an astounding Principal with not only a high degree of learning but she has the best staff who portray a mother like figure to my daughter's education and living.
- See previous comments. Concerns about traffic and student safety are my primary objections to the Ascension site.
- No comments
- St Patrick's is located in a community filled neighbourhood that the children can easily walk to the school, it is a low traffic area in comparison to Ascension.
- Location (current no bussing, all students live extremely close to school), green-space, school is in quiet neighbourhood (as opposed to very busy New St), proximity to church.
- Pro: nearby church
 - More of a residential area
 - There is adjacent parkland nearby
 - Con: the current lot size is smaller
- Pro: Location, tradition, commitment.
- *Less busy of a street-safer
 - *Attached to church-children can be more involved and exposed
- - Close to St. Patrick Church
 - Located on a small, less busy road - safer location
 - Close to an ice rink/sports complex (walking distance)
 - Close to three large parks/green spaces, all within walking distance
 - Beautiful, large, green space attached to the school
- It is the newest school of the three
 - there is enough room that you could add portables if need be
 - St. Patrick's church is right across the way.
- New Street is a much busier street than Kenwood. I feel that it would be much safer for children walking to and from school (especially children in primary grades) to not cross a busy street like New Street. Also this will definitely impact traffic flow on New Street during drop off times in the morning and in the afternoon.

St. Patrick's school has much more of a neighbourhood feel while Ascension is on a busy street next to a high school and a community centre. St. Patrick has wonderful green space for the children to enjoy.

St. Patrick's is next to a church - St. Patrick's church. There is no church on the Ascension site.

- Where would our "Catholic" students attend mass. We have a church right next door. As well as a lot large enough to expand. Ascension is on a very busy street with very little parking, an issue that is very dangerous for the students.
- It makes more sense as it is a newer school, it requires less investments and it has no eligible riders.
- Having our Catholic schools near our churches is by design and by not having our new school adjacent to a church is breaking the partnership that is the foundation of Catholic Education- church, family, and school.
- Our school is in a beautiful location. Quiet and free from distractions of a busy street and pollution caused by traffic on New street. Surrounded by Park land the children are able to play at recess in a more relaxed and natural setting.
- See my points under #4
- It is the newest school, beautiful and better green space, safer (not right on New Street), beside the church and not beside a high school. I have had parents tell me that some of the high school students have given drugs to some of the students at Ascension. I do not want my kids within close proximity to a high school.
- Safer street - next to church
- I have stated my reasons in the previous comments
- - Quieter street, away from traffic
 - Located beside the church, not beside a public high school and local community center raising the concern of unknown adolescents and adults being in close proximity to children playing outside.
 - Numerous families walking their children to school in their community inviting a closer relationship between parents in the area.
 - "Bigger is not always better" St. Patrick may have a smaller amount of land, but the quality of the space far surpasses the proposed site.
- Being right beside city land with a park with grass and trees and baseball fields is wonderful for the kids. Being located so close to the arena is also very convenient. There are plans to build a new recreation center right near St. Pats so this would be an incredible opportunity for our kids in walking distance.

The current St. Pats location is a very calm and quiet area for our kids to learn and play as opposed to being located off new street which is very busy and louder.

Being located right beside St. Patrick's parish is a huge deal as our kids can walk there for mass with the school as well as easily participate and be involved with the church. As a Catholic I would like my kids to have a strong bond to our catholic beliefs and our church. I do not believe the Ascension site can offer this especially with teenagers from the non-catholic high school smoking and fornicating right by the elementary school.
- It should be next to the church. It would be better located on a quieter and less busy street rather than New Street.
- it is not on a main road that is extremely busy, it is not beside a large public high school and it is right next to the Church, a main part of Catholic education!
- Safer for kids to walk

on a less busy road of traffic

- As many parents in the St. Patrick's community can attest to, I much prefer the quiet neighbourhood setting as opposed to an elementary school on busy New Street. The close knit community with EVERYONE walking has been especially beneficial to prompt a healthy lifestyle to my children. Also, the proximity to Mohawk gardens playgrounds and the baseball diamond and skating rink across the street at Skyway park are all assets to the new school being built in the current St. Patrick's location.
- Being closer to, thus building a stronger relationship with the church. The community environment which will only improve when the upgrades to the parkland and community center across the street are implemented. I believe it is a safer environment in many levels: traffic / major roads, vicinity to the high school, etc.
- As stated previously the following apply:

* From a safety perspective having young children away from a high traffic busy dual carriageway is the most logical conclusion

* Having our Catholic Children next to their parish/ catholic church should be a major consideration

* Access and egress off a main road is both unsafe and worrying especially at pick up and drop off for some children as young as 3 whereas St Patrick's offers the ability to enter from many arteries.

* The predicted enrollment student numbers do not correspond with the changing demographic in the area (Real Estate report numbers for the years 2014 to date state that over 300 homes have been bought and sold) hence bringing new young families into our neighbourhood

*St Patrick's location is in a quiet , treed natural environment more conducive for a more relaxed tranquil learning atmosphere which is the reason we moved to this area and chose St Patrick's school.

- It's not on the busy street or next to a public high school.

By being adjacent to the Church, it provides more opportunities for nurturing a faith based life - the mandate of the board.

According to Table 3 under section 3.3, it is cheaper by \$300 000 to replace Ascension than St. Patrick's.

The land size of Ascension is larger, so if the board sells the land, they could get more money for it than the St. Patrick's land.

- St Patrick location is more ideal for children compared to the 2 schools that is located in busy street.
- Because it is located next to the church
- Location in relation to the church is ideal, as well as the large field shared with Mohawk gardens. At least 253 students will not require a bus to get to school. I imagine st. Patrick's site would require the least amount of busing for students.
- The location should be the one closer to the population that the school will serve
- No, Catholic elementary schools ought to be amalgamated.

Keeping St. Patrick school open because it is an amazing neighbourhood school where there are no bussing costs, share close proximity with St. Patrick Church and has an amazing field.

If Mohawk Garden numbers decline and closes down then those neighbourhood children can

surely find a way to attend St. Patrick school.

Catholic school, Catholic church connection!

- We are a Catholic School and we have St. Patrick's Church right next to the school to celebrate the Catholic faith. We are located in a safer neighbourhood in regards to traffic and busy roads. We have a big enough property and more green space than the other two schools. Our enrollment has been increasing and we have a higher utilization rate than the other two schools so why displace the children from St. Patrick.

- Pros

- distance to Church
- not beside a public high school
- within a neighbourhood and not a main street.

Cons

- more traffic in the area

- N/A

- In my opinion it is located in a quiet area away from busy streets. I find New street to be very busy especially at the times that children would be arriving for school.

- Traffic safety - away from New Street

- N/a

- Would be great right beside the church as a Parish community and park and arena right next to it.

- The traffic flow is better at St. Pat's as well as being close to the church and having lots of green space and room to add-on and/or build up. It's away from the high schools and better isolated from the teenagers, possible negative influence and busy traffic

- As outlined in my previous comments - My child will go from St. Patrick's, a lovely tree-lined and local location, part of a community and next to their parish church, to an exceptionally busy main road next to a high school (vs. Catholic Church), which is too far and unsafe to walk to. I'm extremely worried about safety, about travel, about my overall child's experience.

- Studies show that in Smaller schools:

Reduce the negative effects of poverty on student achievement

Have less student violence

Increased parent involvement

Make students feel accountable for their behavior and grades

Teacher satisfaction is higher

Teachers expect more from their students because they know them better (may even know them since the time they joined the school)

Reduction of anonymity -- going to a school where someone knows you and your name. In our school, pretty much everyone knows everyone by name

Compared to larger schools, students in smaller 'schools fight less, feel safer, come to school

more frequently, and report being more attached to their school.

Increasing school size beyond 400 students does not typically result in a large increase in curricular offerings.

- Beside a church, quiet street, big open green space with Mohawk park. Not on a busy road.
- No
- St. Patrick would be the better location since it is ideally located; it's not on a busy street and the Church is right beside the school.

There is enough space to accommodate additional students

- St. Patrick School is an obvious choice as it is situated right beside a church. It sits on a beautiful lot in a far less busy location than New Street. As outlined previously, the area is in the process of being revamped (arena and plaza). A beautiful growing area!
- Yes, as I mentioned before, the urban location would allow for more safety to the children. Kenwood is much safer than new street
- 1) Not on a main street. Less traffic.
2) We currently have over 200 students that require no buses. Keeping the buses required off the community streets will be safer.
3) As catholic school, the amalgamated school would be next to a catholic church.
4) The proposed location already feels very congested being on a main street and next to the community center and close to a high school. Also having the shopping plaza down the street just increases the congestion in the area
- St Patrick's has a fantastic staff and the location is ideal and it is not on a main street that some children would have to cross during a busy morning rush hour. Many students would have to be bused as well
- - first and foremost it is beside a Catholic Church
- smaller community feel
- in a neighbourhood community
- St. Patrick is located in a residential area off a quiet residential street. The quiet location of the school is what drew and continues to attract parents as the safety of their kids is not compromised by heavy car traffic. Allowing kids to walk to school independently without worrying about morning rush hour is one of the major advantages at St. Patrick. Having St. Patrick church next door to the school has been wonderful and allowed the children to attend mass frequently.
- b/c it's closer to me.

Question 6

Do you have any questions you'd like Council to forward to the Board on behalf of the St. Patrick community in advance of the community meeting set for March 2, 2016?

Answer Options	Response Count
	63
<i>answered question</i>	63
<i>skipped question</i>	69

- Is it really better for children to put in the same school with hundreds of students? Putting 3 schools into 1 seems a little too extreme.
- Is it better for kids to be in a large school compared intimate smaller school? It's nice for kids to be in a small school environment
- Who came up with this plan? I want names!
Do they even leave in south East Burlington?
Do they go to Church?
- No
- - What is the rationale for building in the proposed location?
- Will the new building be on time for all the students?
- I don't agree with the idea that students could be placed on portables so if they are planning to close our school I like to know if there is a possibility of that happening
- Not at this time.
- Perhaps you will sort some questions out of previous observations.
- Not at this time.
- No
- No
- We love our school with their teachers and principle.... let's do not destroy what has a good namewe can built around.... but do not destroy.... good things
- No
- No not at this time
- No
- How is this in the best interest of the children?

The small community is strong because of the size. We know each other and the student get dedicated help and guidance and feel known and loved. With a large school you are taking some of this away. It should be about quality not quantity.

- No.

- No
- Can we know the others proposals??
- Will the Board consider making St Patrick's the location for the new school?

What is the likelihood that this consolidation will happen?

- How could you do this to us?
- Whatever the final decision is what does next year look like as far as 2 schools in 1???
- How does the Board value the proximity to the church in making its decisions?
- None
- I have the following questions:

I noticed some discrepancies in the information provided in the St. Patrick School Information Profile and would ask the board to verify the accuracy of information provided to the community.

- Section 3.3 Child Care (page 25) indicates there is currently extra capacity in the YMCA before and after school care program for school-age children. Through recent discussions with the YMCA coordinator I know that we have at least 3 children on the wait list right now. I would encourage staff to double check these numbers to ensure that any new school would be licensed for the appropriate number of students requiring care.

- there is a reference to Holy Cross school on page 16 - please confirm this information is accurate for St. Pats

- section 1.7 space summary does not reflect current usage of St. Pat's room space

Has the board done a hazard assessment for Ascension given the increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic this consolidation will bring? Shouldn't this be a consideration in any recommendation made?

Does the Board consider any other criteria when making a recommendation (environmental, social, community, neighbourhood etc) or do they rely on the broader community to put forth these concerns before a final recommendation is adapted and implemented?

- Did you ask the students their opinions on whether they want an amalgamated school?

Did you ask the students if they would feel safe in a bigger school setting?

Did you know that bullying would become a bigger issue because the teachers cannot give eyes on a bigger group of children?

Is the board doing this to save money or are they doing this for the betterment of the social, emotional and cognitive growth of the children?

What is the difference in keeping the children in their familiarity rather than putting them in portals? You're segregating them from the whole school plus no one like portals!

- See previous comments.
- How will programming be improved once the schools are amalgamated? What will the long term benefits be to my child? Will there be sufficient before/after school childcare to accommodate the larger enrolment?
- Will there be any additional requirements of those students currently living outside the school boundaries?

- No
- If they are going to amalgamate three schools, please build one that will fit the number of students for the 2017-2018 school year. Not only are the kids going to be a) losing their school b) possibly changing sites c) going into a school that is three times the current school size, some now might even be in portables. This is punishing students twice - all for HCDSB to save money and actually turn a profit by selling of the St. Patrick's school site to a developer. HCDSB is treating this like a business decision - when parents decide to put their children in the catholic school system this is not a business decision to them. It is the desire to have their children educated in a system that instills important values and morals. Unfortunately I think HCDSB has lost sight on this and just views our children as numbers....numbers to allocate into buildings.
- How many students in the new school?
- Does the board really believe that its projections of retaining its students in a new amalgamated school will hold true? For example, what is to stop Catholic students from St. Patrick from attending Mohawk Gardens or from St. Raphael students from attending Tuck?
- We will be at the meeting but why is this happening?
- See points under #4
- - What successful schools have been built in the past on properties like St. Patrick's location?
- What would be the new start and end time

What would the bus area be

What are the plans for pick up and drop off of students if location is kept on busy new st

- What will happen to the excellent teachers, EA's and staff at St. Patrick's? Another reason we chose this amazing school!
- How does the school board intend to control excessive traffic with the increased number of students safely and what does that plan look like?

Why in the Catholic School Board following the example of the Public school system by cramming children into portables rather than focusing on education which has always been the basis of the Catholic School Boards success?

- No.
- How long will the kids be displaced?
- No
- No thanks
- How do you think the closing down of three feeder schools will affect catholic secondary education, particularly Assumption high school?

Why is there so little importance given to schools (St. Patrick and St. Rafaels) that share proximity to the churches (St. Patrick and St. Rafael Churches)?

The forecast is merely for 15 years, what will happen if the young child demographic increases after 15 years, will the HCDSB now have new property to purchase to rebuild these elementary schools in south Burlington?

Is this proposal short sighted for the growth of Catholic education?

Are there studies to show that students achieve better results in high (over 600 students) elementary schools or are there studies that show students overall do better in small school community environments?

- No
- Would building a new school and have three school populations reside there mean overpopulating that new facility and children ending up in portables? From the statistics it looks like the new school would be over-utilized with no surplus of spaces.

Projected enrolment for St. Patrick's is still higher than for the other two schools - why include it?

If this was to happen what would that mean re: school uniforms? We cannot afford once again to buy new uniforms for our twins who just started JK.

- Yes I would like clarity on students that are enrolled at St Patrick's today that live over 1.5km from Ascension and whether they will have transportation provided to the new amalgamated school of located at the Ascension location.
- N/A
- No
- No
- What are the actual enrollment numbers for each individual of the 3 schools for the 2016 - 2017 school year?
- No
- What do you propose will be the projected numbers 5 years from now? With all areas growing as older families move out, it seems obvious that younger families will be in need of schools in the area. With the turnover being great in the next 5 years, what's your plan for housing all these students in one school? Is the proposition to just simply add portables?
- None for now.
- I hope you will re-consider as many people feel that to lose St. Pat's would be a huge loss not only to the church community, but to the family. There are a lot of new families moving into the Kenwood area, and if we create a new school there, it will allow them to attend
- Not at the moment but I will forward my questions to you as they arise.
- Not at this time
- How would the children attending St. Patrick Elementary school benefit from the proposed merger?
- how can we make my child's schooling career more convenient for me?
- Will there be additional crossing guards, lights to make crossing at new street safer?

Can the St Patrick site be considered for the site of the new school?


~~~~~

*The following information was on a note left on a table and found at the end of the meeting:*

We want you to act as Catholic Trustees to ask for renovation money for both of our schools in St Raphael Parish and thereby foster the parish family, school triad. The money should not be used to build a new, unnecessary school.

How much will the new school cost? Is a multi-million-dollar school really necessary or is it meant to be a spectacular showpiece for Halton District Catholic School board on a principal thoroughfare in Burlington?

Why do we have to build a big new "horizontal school" after tearing down Ascension, instead of adding a few more classrooms (verticle perhaps) at St. Raphael or St. Paul?

Is it just an ill-conceived answer to a big money offer from the Province?

Why is a 700 student school better for "programs" than a 250 student school? Why not have teachers rotate our Burlington Catholic schools to offer special programs and equip the schools with the required material resources for these programs?

What about small community environment for elementary students? Is a big 700 student elementary school the best learning environment for pre-teens? Is a big school really better for the humane and holistic Catholic education of our young children?

Why do we have to put one more obstacle in the way of the connection between

family and school and our Parish by taking away both schools? Just because some parishes don't have a school next to the church is a poor argument to remove an existing best practice.

Do you realize that further leakage to the public system will happen when Catholic parents have the option of their Catholic children going by bus to Ascension, rather than walking to John T. Tuck, Ryerson, or Pauline Johnson? Do you realize that Grade Eight students at the new school on New Street will put all our Catholic students next to Bateman? Do you think they will opt to go to Assumption rather than next door to Bateman? Is there not danger of substantial leakage after grade eight?

The Catholic school is an important faith community, but it is not the primary faith community of the students and their families! As experience has demonstrated in other Boards, when the Catholic school is removed from a parish, the parish connection is weakened and decimated. Did your planning for this proposal consider that it will diminish the faith community of St. Raphael? Is that a priority for the Board?

Do you realize the great difficulty you will put on the pastoral team of St. Raphael's parish to have sacramental preparation for its students if they are relocated to the New School?

Do you understand the difficulty this proposal will cause for regular celebrations of Eucharist and Reconciliation during class time in St. Raphael parish church in order to build a parish community for its children and parents?

Do you know that funding for transportation to the church already is very limited

and insufficient so that with relocation to the New school regular sacramental liturgies held in the school will become normative rather than exceptional? Does that not defeat an essential relationship of parish, school and family?

**From:** Lana Guschina [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2016 11:00 AM  
**To:** Thibeault, Frederick <[ThibeaultF@hcdsb.org](mailto:ThibeaultF@hcdsb.org)>; Corbacio, Giacomo <[CorbacioG@hcdsb.org](mailto:CorbacioG@hcdsb.org)>  
**Subject:** Burlington South East MPAR alternative school building proposal

Good morning Mr. Thibeault and Mr. Corbacio,

I am one of the parents from the St. Patrick school, which is affected by the currently in progress Burlington South East MPAR.

At the community meeting on March 2, 2016, during the discussion period at one of the tables, Mr. Thibeault mentioned that he would be open to the alternative school designs.

Please find attached information for Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Elementary School at the York Catholic School board. According to the York School board minutes, this school was designed based on the Burlington school plans and is compliant with the Student Centered 21<sup>st</sup> century school idea.

It is a replacement school for two schools in East Gwillimbury with the funding for the school already approved by the ministry and the scheduled construction dates similar to the ones for Burlington South East.

I would like to bring this school to your attention as I think that it meets the majority of criteria that you are looking for in the new school and provides a strong alternative solution to the proposed plan.

With utilization of this school plan, School board will be able to proceed with the consolidation of St. Patrick and Ascension schools only, on the St. Patrick school site. This will address a number of community concerns associated with the current proposal and will meet needs of both – the School board and the community.

Below is the quick summary of the possible consolidation of two schools, which demonstrates that the smaller school should fit on the St. Patrick site and that utilization of new school will remain above 100% for the next 10 years.

***Current area is sufficient for the proposed new building.***

St Patrick School: 337 Pupil places, 37,324 sq ft building area (1 floor), 17,222 sq ft hard Surface Play area + 33,906 sq ft Grass play area. Total area = 88,452 sq ft.

Our Lady of Good Counsel: 461 Pupil places, 51,586 sf, 3 preschool rooms, 72 licensed childcare spaces – 2 floors

As a reference point, School board proposed: 648 Pupil places, 69,424 sf, 4 preschool rooms, 88 licensed childcare spaces – 2 floors.

Proposed school meets the following Criteria:

- A Student Centered 21<sup>st</sup> century school
- Facility Utilization criteria - Facility utilization between 90% and 125% over 10 years horizon

# **OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

461 Pupil Places  
MOE Benchmark Area: 51, 586 sf

## **CHILDCARE**

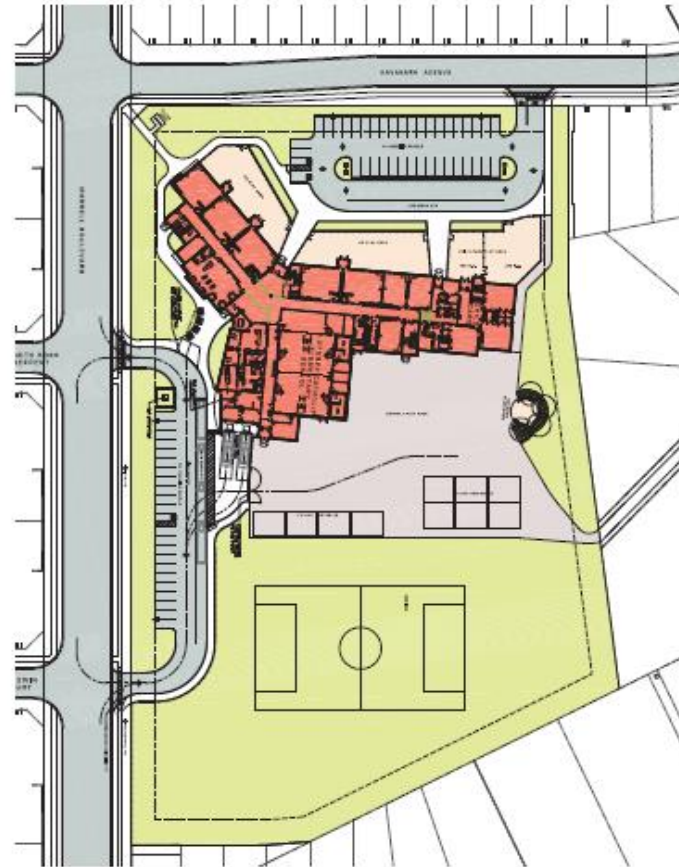
3 Preschooler Rooms  
72 Licensed Childcare Spaces

sn/derarchitects



**A STUDENT-  
CENTRED  
21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY  
SCHOOL**



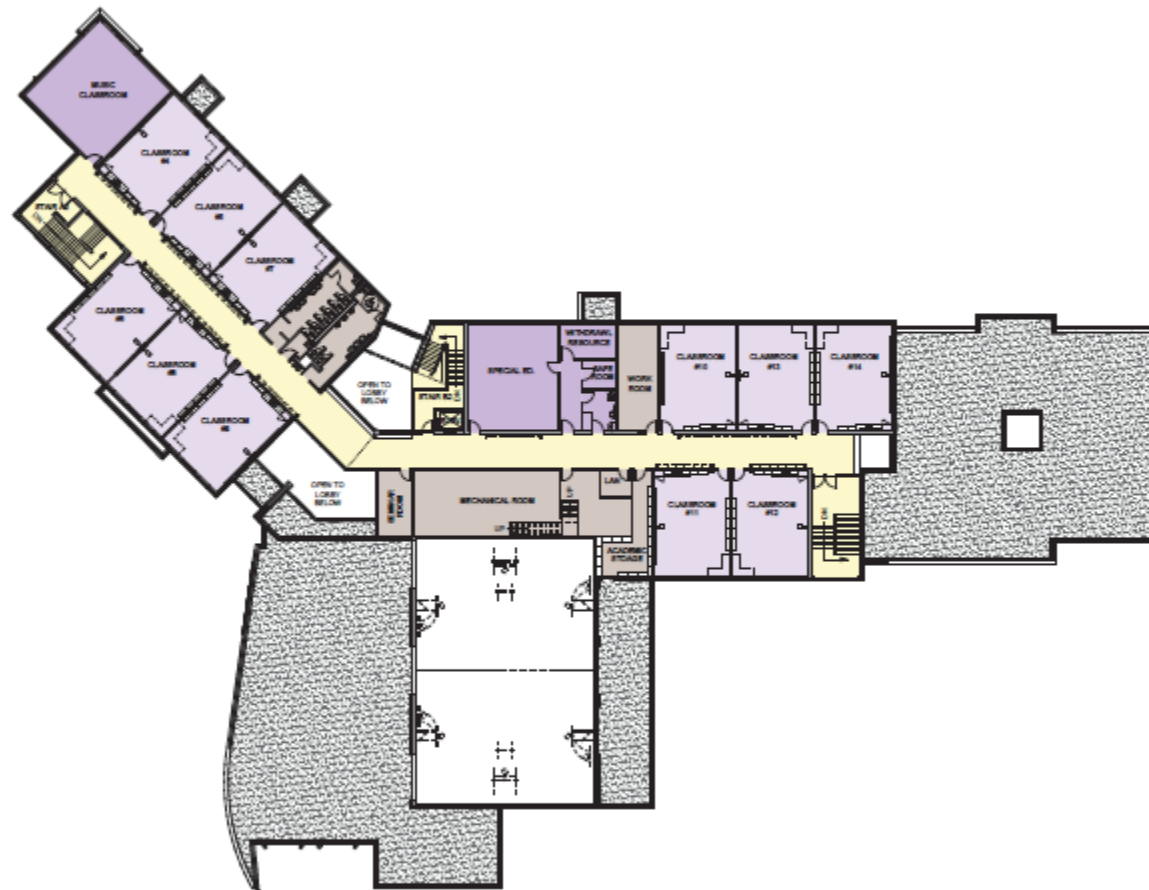


SITE PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN





**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

SMALL 461 PUPIL PLACE SCHOOL  
TOWN'S GREEN DESIGN STANDARDS  
GEOTHERMAL ENERGY SYSTEM FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY

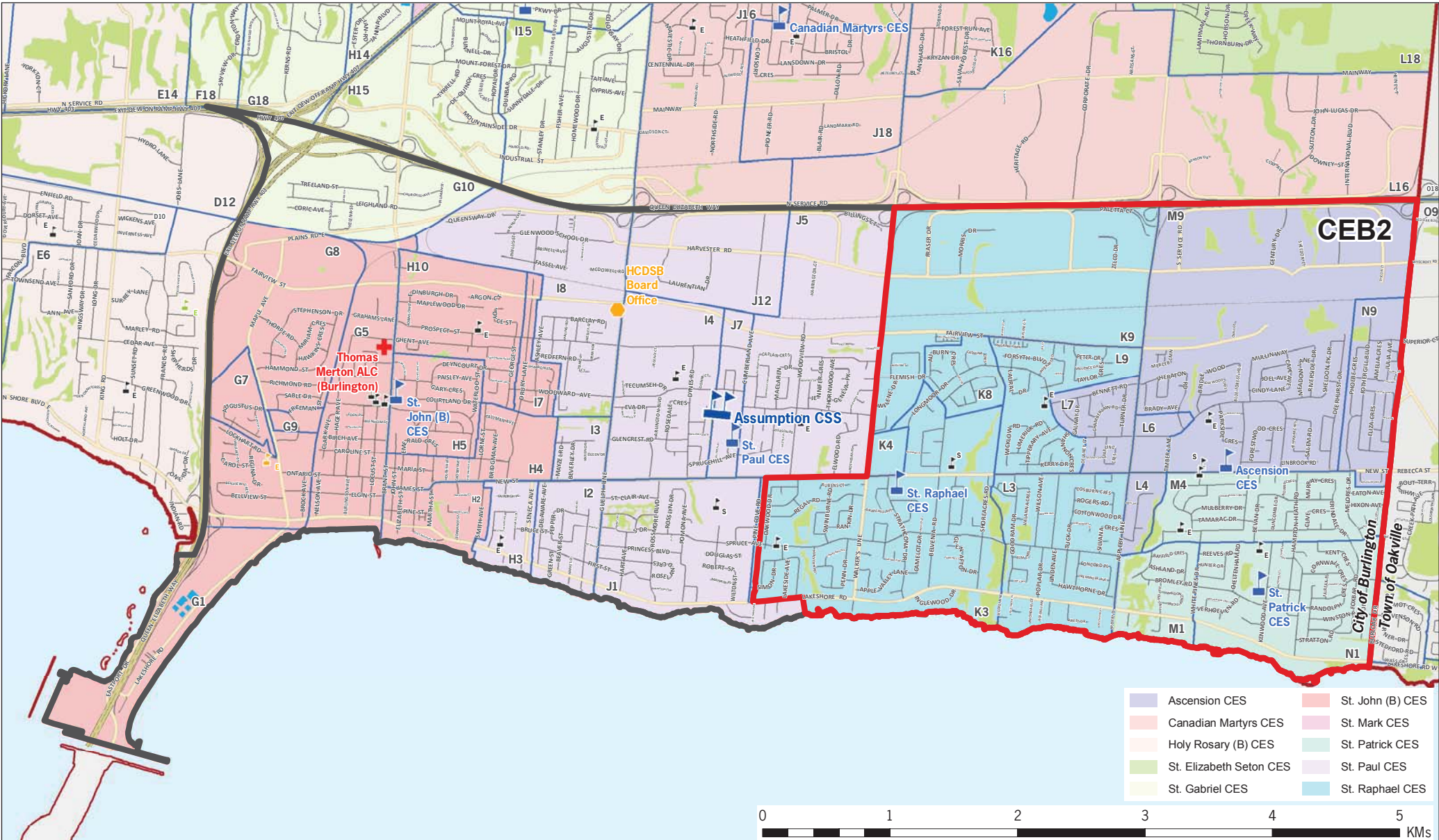
## PROJECT SCHEDULE

| ITEM                            | TARGET DATE  |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| MOE APPROVAL - 50% QS ESTIMATE  | 2016 MAR 21  |
| PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS | 2016 JUN 01  |
| BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION     | 2016 JUN 23  |
| SPA & PERMIT APPROVAL           | 2016 JUL 31  |
| BIDS ISSUED FOR TENDER          | 2016 AUG 01  |
| BIDS CLOSE                      | 2016 AUG 23  |
| AWARD OF CONTRACT               | 2016 SEP 06  |
| SUBSTANTIAL PERFORMANCE         | 2017 JULY 31 |
| SCHOOL OPENS                    | 2017 SEP 05  |



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southeast QEW School Project**

# **APPENDIX G**

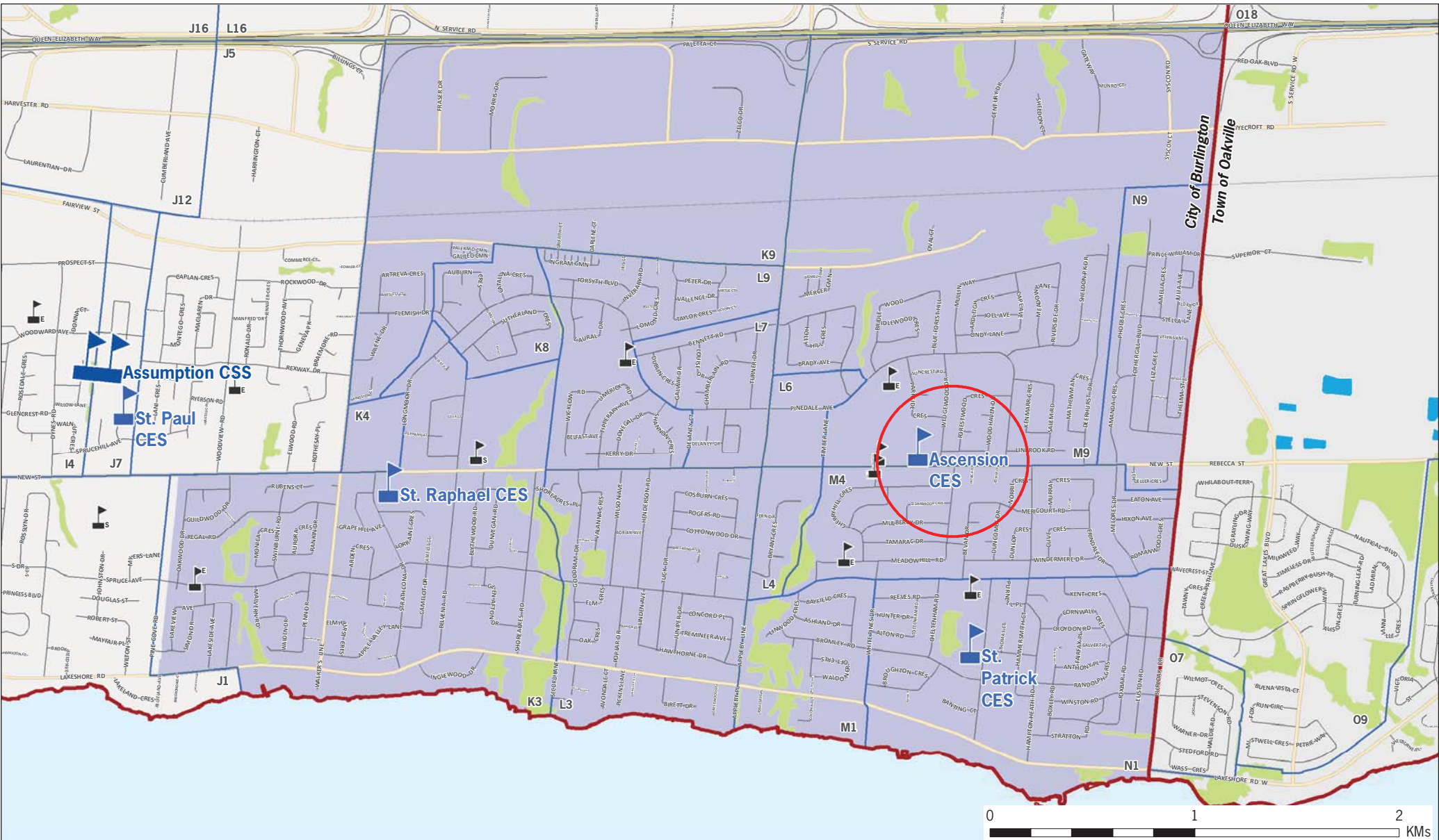




**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southeast QEW School Project**

# **APPENDIX H**





**HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

# **Proposed Ascension CES Attendance Boundary** **Burlington Southeast QEW Accommodation Review Area**

The current street network was provided by the Regional Municipality of Halton and the Region assumes no responsibility or liability for its use or accuracy. Proposed roads are subject to change. It is the intention of the HCDSB to provide up-to-date and accurate information, and reasonable efforts have been made by the HCDSB to verify the information, however a degree of error or change is inherent. This information is distributed "as is" without warranty. HCDSB assumes no legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information. If you require additional information please contact the Planning Services Department at 905-632-6300 or visit [www.haltonbus.ca](http://www.haltonbus.ca) for additional school boundary information.

- HCDSB Schools
- HDSB Schools
- CEB2 - Burlington South QEW RA
- CS Viamonde Schools
- CSDCCS Schools
- HCDSB Adult Learning Centre
- HCDSB Administration
- Proposed Ascension CES Boundary



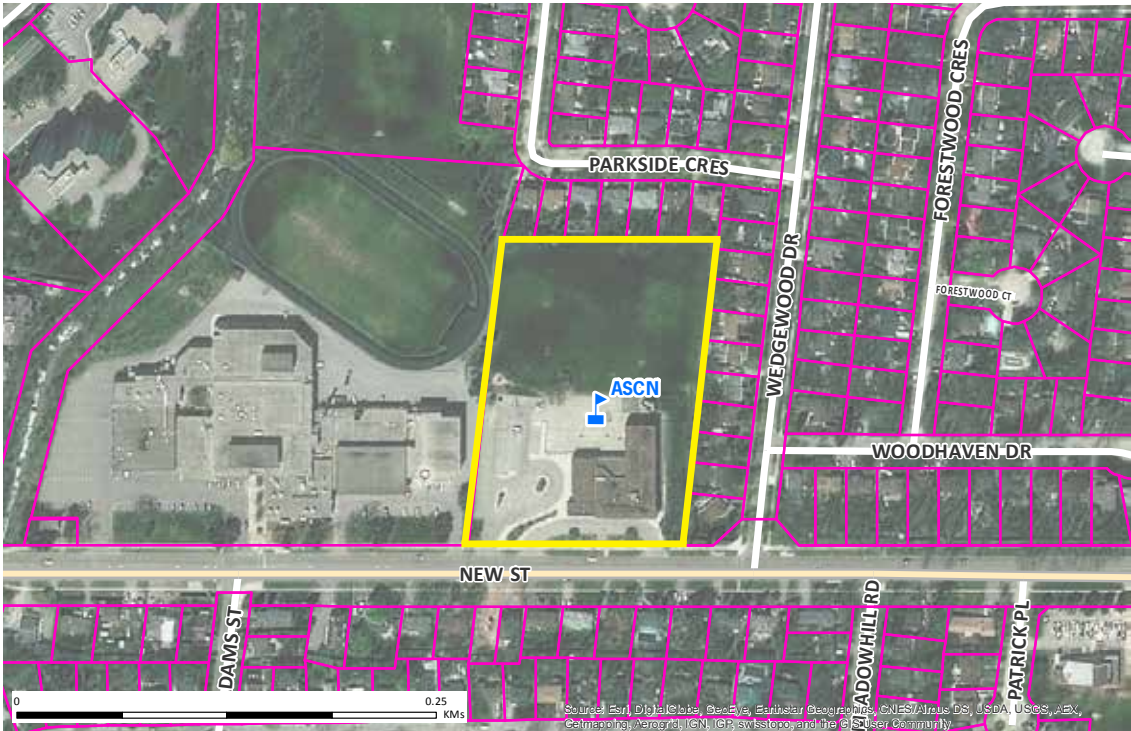
**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southeast QEW School Project**

# **APPENDIX I**



# Ascension Catholic Elementary School Site

## Proposed Site for Burlington Southeast QEW School

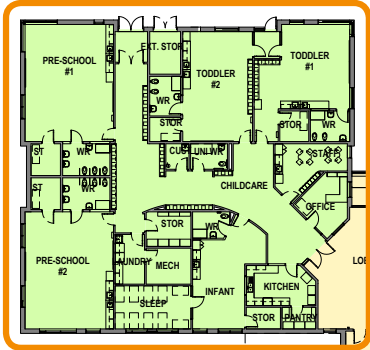


# Proposed Concept of Burlington Southeast QEW School

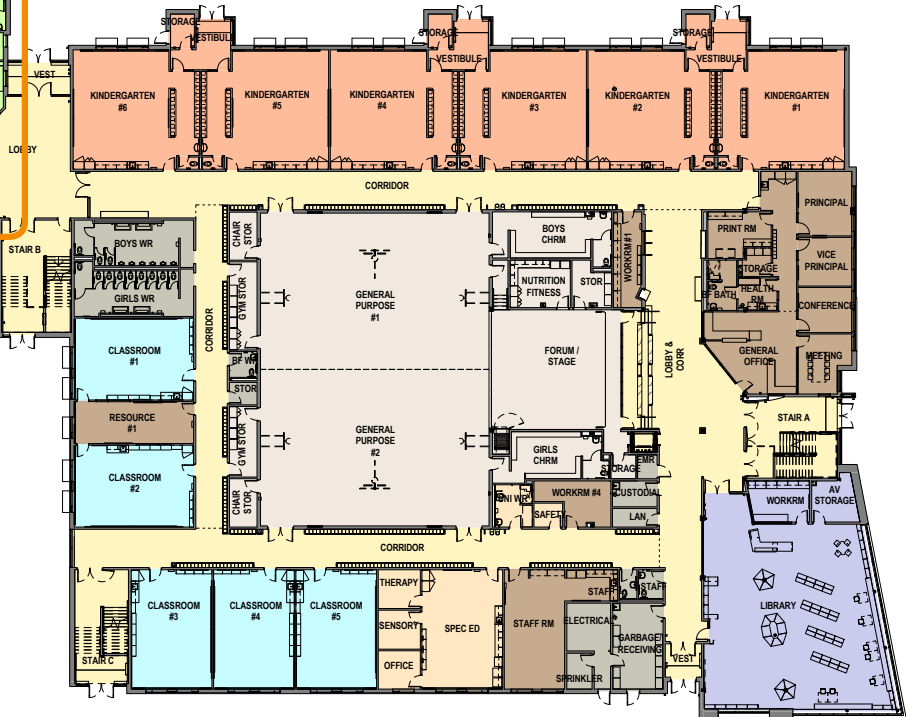




# Proposed Concept of Ground Floor Plan of Burlington Southeast QEW School



**Child Care Centre**  
Attached 88 space Child Care Centre that provides a smooth transition from Pre-School to Kindergarten.



# Proposed Concept of Second Floor Plan of Burlington Southeast QEW School



Retractable Wall between Classroom #8 and Classroom #9



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southeast QEW School Project**

# **APPENDIX J**

Ministry of Education  
Early Years Division

Ministère de l'Éducation  
Division de la petite enfance



**Affirmation Letter: Capital Funding for New Construction of Child Care – School Consolidation Capital**

School Board Name: Halton Catholic District School Board

School Consolidation Capital Proposal: Burlington Southeast QEW School Rank: 3

**Current Scenario - Existing Schools**

| SFIS  |                 | Existing Licensed Child Care Capacity |         |            |       |        |         |            |       |
|-------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------|------------|-------|--------|---------|------------|-------|
|       |                 | Spaces                                |         |            |       | Rooms  |         |            |       |
|       |                 | Infant                                | Toddler | Pre-school | Total | Infant | Toddler | Pre-school | Total |
| 8111  | Ascension CES   | 0                                     | 0       | 0          | 0     | 0      | 0       | 0          | 0     |
| 8100  | St. Patrick CES | 0                                     | 0       | 0          | 0     | 0      | 0       | 0          | 0     |
| 8130  | St. Raphael CES | 0                                     | 0       | 0          | 0     | 0      | 0       | 0          | 0     |
|       |                 |                                       |         |            | 0     |        |         |            | 0     |
|       |                 |                                       |         |            | 0     |        |         |            | 0     |
| TOTAL |                 | 0                                     | 0       | 0          | 0     | 0      | 0       | 0          | 0     |

**Proposed Solution - Resulting Schools**

|                          |                             |                 | Child Care Rooms Being Requested |         |            |       |        |              |            |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------|------------|-------|--------|--------------|------------|
|                          |                             |                 | Rooms                            |         |            | Total |        | Opening Date |            |
| School Name              | School Address              | Postal Code     | Infant                           | Toddler | Pre-school | Rooms | Spaces | School       | Child Care |
|                          |                             | Spaces per room | 10                               | 15      | 24         |       |        |              |            |
| Burlington Southeast QEW | 5205 New Street, Burlington | L7N 3P1         | 1                                | 2       | 2          | 5     | 88     | 1/09/17      | 1/09/17    |
|                          |                             |                 |                                  |         |            | 0     | 0      |              |            |
|                          |                             |                 |                                  |         |            | 0     | 0      |              |            |
|                          |                             |                 |                                  |         |            | 0     | 0      |              |            |
| TOTAL                    |                             |                 | 1                                | 2       | 2          | 5     | 88     |              |            |

This is to affirm that this Affirmation Letter has been jointly approved by the school board and Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) or District School Services Administration Board (DSSAB) listed below. The school board has the support of the corresponding CMSM/DSSAB regarding the eligibility and viability requirements to build child care rooms and create spaces for ages 0 to 3.8 years in the identified schools and affirms that the new spaces will not result in an operating pressure for the CMSM/DSSAB.

Please Note: For this request to be considered for funding, this Affirmation Letter must be submitted as part of the school board's School Consolidation Capital business case. A copy must also be provided to your school board's Ministry Early Years Regional Staff (Education Officer and Child Care Advisor) and Capital Analyst.

Halton Region  
Name of CMSM/DSSAB

Mary Beth Jones  
Manager of Children's Services (CMSM/DSSAB) Name

Mary Beth Jones  
Manager of Children's Services (CMSM/DSSAB) Signature

Feb 26, 2016  
Date

Halton Catholic DSB  
Director of Education (School Board) Name

Dawson  
Director of Education (School Board) Signature

Feb. 26/16  
Date

Over for Project  
Details 7

The Halton Catholic District School is requesting \$12,992,951 in funding under the Ministry of Education's 2015 School Consolidation Capital Funding (Memorandum 2015: B16) to support the consolidation of the three (3) affected schools into a newly constructed 648 pupil place facility located on the existing Ascension School site for the 2017-18 school year.

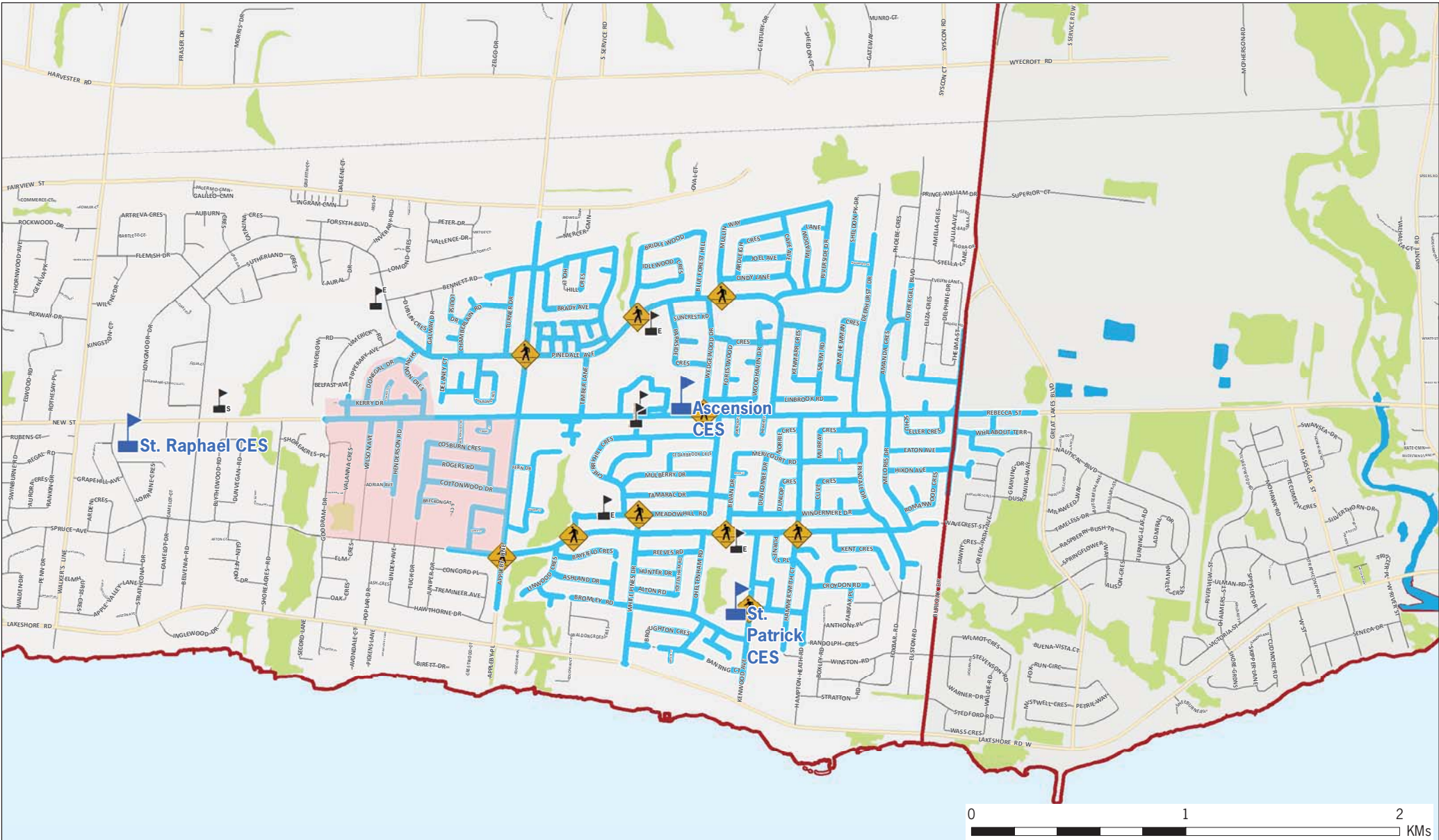
In addition, the Board is also requesting \$2,520,850 in funding to construct a five (5) room 8,600 square foot child-care centre under the Ministry of Education's 2015 Capital Funding for New Construction of Child Care – School Consolidation Capital (Memorandum 2015: B16).

Also note that the Region of Halton is also reviewing opportunities to potentially add a second floor to the proposed 8,600 child care wing to incorporate additional Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres uses to further enhance the community hub experience at the proposed school.



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southeast QEW School Project**

# **APPENDIX K**



# Proposed Burlington Southeast 1.6km Walking Web Burlington Southeast QEW Accommodation Review Area

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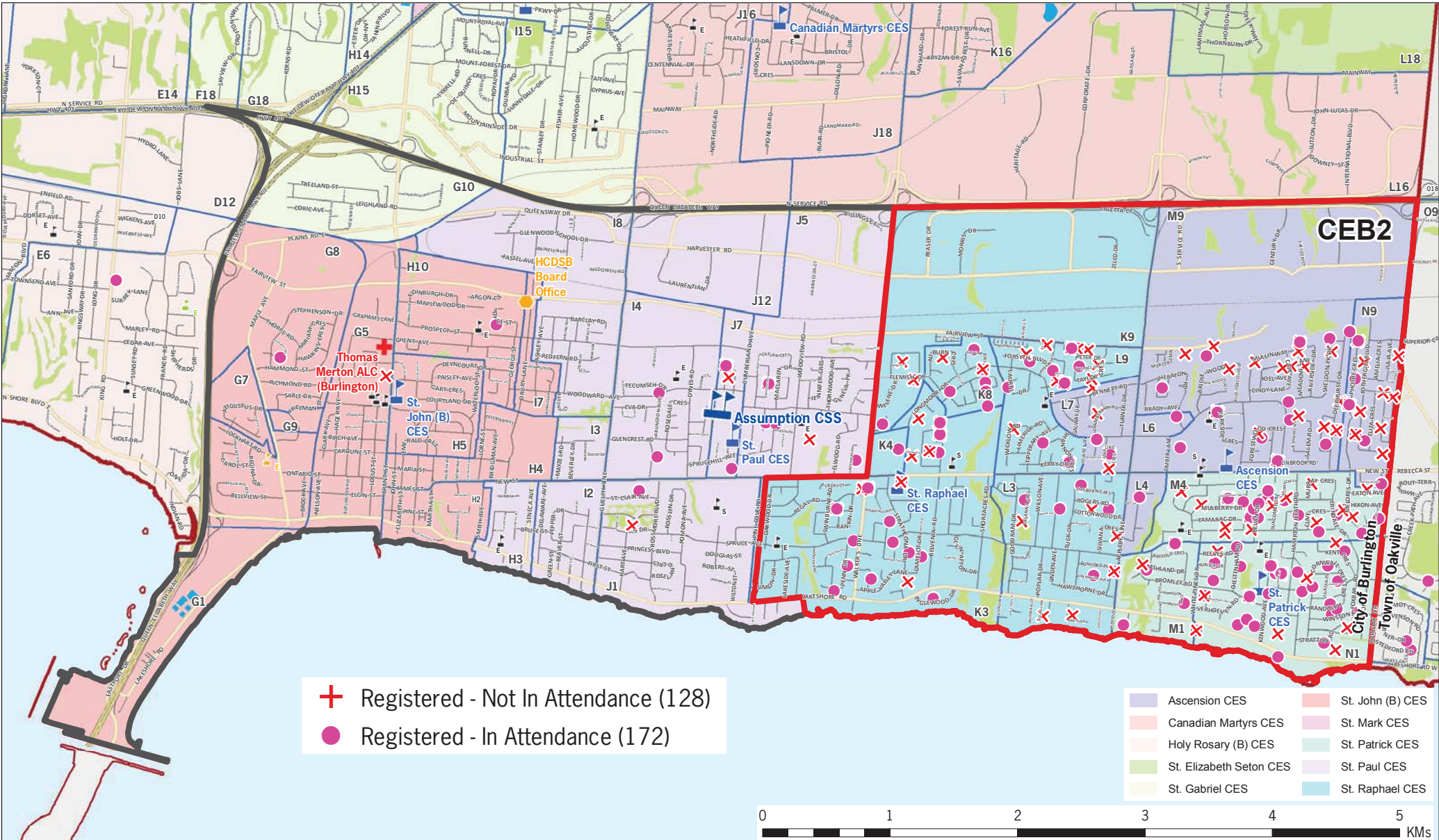
- HCDSB Schools
- HDSB Schools
- Crossing Guard Location
- CS Viamonde Schools
- CSDCCS Schools
- Burlington Southeast Web
- HCDSB Adult Learning Centre
- HCDSB Administration
- Exception Areas





**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southeast QEW School Project**

# **APPENDIX L**



**STAFF REPORT**

**ITEM 4.3**

**BURLINGTON SOUTHWEST QEW MODIFIED PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW  
INTERIM STAFF REPORT**

**PURPOSE:**

To provide the Board of Trustees with a copy of the **Interim Staff Report** for the Burlington Southwest QEW Modified Pupil Accommodation Review Report, summarizing the status of the process and presenting the collated community feedback.

**BACKGROUND:**

1. Information Report 10.4, "2016 Annual Accommodation Review", from the January 19, 2016 Regular Board Meeting.
2. Staff Report 9.2, "2015 School Consolidation Capital Project Proposals", from the January 5, 2016 Regular Board Meeting.
3. Action Report 8.5, "Burlington Southwest QEW Modified Pupil Accommodation Review", from the January 19, 2016 Regular Board Meeting

**REPORT PREPARED BY:**

F. THIBEAULT, ADMINISTRATOR OF PLANNING SERVICES  
R. MERRICK, ADMINISTRATOR, SCHOOL OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE  
S. GALLIHER, PLANNING OFFICER, PLANNING SERVICES

**SUBMITTED BY:**

G. CORBACIO, SUPERINTENDENT OF FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES  
P. MCMAHON, SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS SERVICES AND TREASURER OF THE BOARD  
T. OVERHOLT, SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL SERVICES

**REPORT APPROVED BY:**

P. DAWSON, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND SECRETARY OF THE BOARD



## **Modified Pupil Accommodation Review Interim Staff Report**

### **Burlington Southwest QEW School Project**

**March 22, 2016**

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## 1.0 Executive Summary

At the January 19, 2016, Regular Meeting of the Board, Trustees approved a recommendation to undertake a Modified Pupil Accommodation Review (MPAR) for Burlington Southwest QEW, an area bounded by the QEW to the north and west, Pine Cove Road and Walkers Line to the East, and Lake Ontario to the South. This review area is comprised of St. John School, and St. Paul School.

Staff presented an Initial Staff Report that recommended one (1) option to address the declining enrolment and underutilized accommodation issues present in the review area. In addition, the report provided context regarding the considerations made in developing the recommended option as well as the rationale for undertaking a Modified Pupil Accommodation Review (MPAR) for the Burlington Southwest QEW Review Area.

The recommended option consisted of the **consolidation of the two (2) affected schools into the existing St. John School (named Burlington Southwest QEW School herein) and construct a 144 pupil place addition to accommodate the increase in enrolment.** The scenario consisted of all students in the review area being accommodated in a proposed new Burlington Southwest School with an addition to the existing St. John School for the 2017-18 school year, at the earliest.

The Initial Staff Report included the following resources and can be found online:

- A) Documentation of required work completed prior to the accommodation review;
- B) Summary of background data used in option developed by staff;
- C) Summary of accommodation issues for the schools under review; and,
- D) Preferred accommodation option.

Following the January 19, 2016 Board approval to undertake an MPAR, staff proceeded to notify the community about the accommodation review process as well as solicit feedback on the proposed accommodation plan. All information was made available through the Board's website ([www.hcdsb.org](http://www.hcdsb.org)).

Staff took the opportunity to present the recommended scenario to the two (2) local parent/school councils and school staff at all two (2) schools, the affected parish representatives, the City of Burlington, the Diocese of Hamilton, and to the wider community through the Community Consultation Meeting (CCM), held on March 8, 2016, at Assumption Catholic Secondary School (CSS). A summary of the full communication strategy is presented as Appendix A.



An online forum was also developed to enable the community to have a shared dialogue about the proposal. The forum was made available beginning on January 27, 2016. In addition to the forum, a three (3) question on-line survey was made available from February 17 to March 13, 2016. All communication shared in the online forum and survey are attached as Appendix B and Appendix C, respectively.

The Community Consultation Meetings also provided an opportunity for parents and stakeholders to submit comments and questions for Board staff to address. A summary package of the information gathered at the CCM and the “parking lot questions” and answers are attached as Appendix D and Appendix E, respectively. Questions that staff was not able to answer at the CCM were added to the parking lot. Answers to the parking lot questions were subsequently uploaded to the Board website one (1) week following the CCM.

A summary of the communication process is as follows:

1. Board website updated on January 20, 2016 – Pupil Accommodation Review button placed prominently on the landing page of the website. Updates ongoing.
2. Email letters and FAQ sheet distributed to each parent and staff member in the impacted school communities on January 20, 2016. Follow up emails sent to parents on January 27<sup>th</sup>, February 17<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and March 17<sup>th</sup>.
3. Copy of letter to staff and an FAQ sheet shared with Presidents of Unionized Employee Groups on January 20, 2016.
4. Letter sent via email to St. John Parish Pastor and St. Raphael Parish Pastor on January 26, 2016.
5. Hardcopy letters hand-delivered on January 26, 2016 to neighbours and residents adjacent to and abutting the school communities.
6. Online discussion forum; Available from January 27, 2016  
([www.muut.com/burlington-southwest-mpar](http://www.muut.com/burlington-southwest-mpar))
7. Media Release – Distributed January 28, 2016
8. Letters sent to Regional Chair, Mayor of Burlington and Local Councillors, and Member of Provincial Parliament for Burlington on January 29, 2016.
9. Presentations to School Staff  
(February 2, 2016 at St. John School; February 4, 2016 at St. Paul School)
10. Presentations to Catholic School Councils  
(February 8, 2016 at St. Paul School; February 29 at St. John School)
11. An online survey; Available February 17 to March 11, 2016.
12. School newsletter/website message was provided to schools.
13. Community Consultation Meeting on March 8, 2016, at Assumption CSS
  - a. Parking Lot Questions
  - b. Transcribed Responses to Questions

Staff will present to Trustees at the March 22, 2016, Special Meeting of the Board the feedback and input that has been gathered to date. On April 5, 2016, the Board of Trustees will receive delegations from the community regarding the Burlington Southwest Schools Consolidation Proposal. The information received from the delegations and any other pertinent information will be included in the Final Report to the Board. The Final Report will be presented to Trustees as an Action Item at the April 19, 2016, Regular Meeting of the Board, when a final decision and approval by the Board is anticipated.

## 2.0 Initial Staff Report Summary (January 19, 2016)

### 2.1 Annual School Board Planning

Planning staff develop a number of reports on an annual basis in support of school accommodation planning. The outcomes of these reports indicate that declining enrolment is a reality in the **Burlington Southwest QEW** review area. This finding aligns with Staff's initial recommended option to consolidate two (2) schools in Burlington Southwest QEW to address declining enrolment trends.

#### 2.1.1 15-Year Projection Update

A December 15, 2015, report to Board contained a 15 year forecast of enrolment projections for the Region of Halton. In the context of the **CEB2: Burlington – South of QEW** Review Area, staff projected that enrolment would continue to decline over the next fifteen (15) year period, leaving the school facilities within the area consistently underutilized. Continuing to operate five (5) schools within the area is no longer viable.

#### 2.1.2 LTCP and Annual Facilities Accommodation Report

The Long Term Capital Plan (LTCP) is released on a five year cycle for the entire Region of Halton, and was most recently updated in June 2013. This document compiles the Board's long term enrolment projections and contemplates future projects for creating new pupil places, renewing school facilities, and removing excess pupil places from the Board's inventory through pupil accommodation reviews.

The LTCP is a living document that is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure changing trends are reflected in the plan. The LTCP can be accessed on the Board's website:

<http://www.hcdsb.org/Board/LTCP/Pages/default.aspx>

The 2013 Long Term Capital Plan acknowledged the declining enrolment within the **CEB2 Burlington South of QEW Review Area**, and **suggested that a pupil accommodation review be undertaken in the area to reduce excess capacity by 1,100 pupil places**

and reduce overall renewal needs by removing aging schools from the Board's building inventory.

In addition, as part of the Board's annual review for the 2015-16 school year, Staff completed the Annual Facility Accommodation Report, as per the requirements of Operating Policy I-37: Community Planning & Facilities Partnerships, and presented the Report to community stakeholder on January 18, 2016.

### 2.1.3 Consultation with Local & Regional Municipalities

On an ongoing basis, as a part of the yearly review of accommodation needs and the daily operations of the Planning Services Department, staff consults with local municipalities and receives planning information on a number of development related matters.

This information is used in the development of short and long-term enrolment forecasts and the determination of future Board accommodation needs in both established and new neighbourhoods. Staff regularly liaise with municipal staff to discuss future needs within the target municipalities and align future capital investments wherever feasible (i.e. park facilities, childcare, city services).

As part of the Modified Accommodation Review Process (MPAR), staff met with the City of Burlington on February 17, 2016, to discuss the proposed accommodation plans for the Burlington Southwest QEW and Burlington Southeast QEW accommodation review areas. City staff supported the proposed addition and the plan to potentially locate a bus drop off lane along Courtland Drive to offset on site circulation issues.

Staff met again with the City of Burlington on March 10, 2016, to discuss the built fabric of Brant Street, and how conducive it is for pedestrian safety. Given the urban nature of the road and the "complete street" design, traffic is slowed along the area. Furthermore, the design of the street is intended to be of a walkable nature.

## 2.2 Accommodation Review Area Overview

The **Burlington Southwest QEW** Accommodation Review Area is located within the **CEB2 South of the QEW review area** as identified in the Board's 2013 Long-Term Capital Plan, both of which are displayed geographically in Appendix G. The two (2) elementary schools located within the Accommodation Review Area include St. John School and St. Paul School. The boundary of the accommodation review area is comprised of the two (2) aforementioned school boundaries combined, shown in Appendix H.

A cursory overview of each affected school within the review area is summarized below in Table 1, and is further supplemented by the information found within the SIPs, in Appendix C of the Initial Staff Report, which was presented to Board on January 19, 2016.

**Table 1 Historic & Projected Enrolment Burlington Southwest QEW Review Area**

| School Name         | OTG | 2011 | 2015 | 2020 | 2025 | Original Construction | FCI | Site Size |
|---------------------|-----|------|------|------|------|-----------------------|-----|-----------|
| St. John (B) CES    | 395 | 343  | 297  | 269  | 234  | 1995                  | 22% | 1.94 ac.  |
|                     |     | 87%  | 75%  | 68%  | 59%  |                       |     |           |
| St. Paul CES        | 337 | 304  | 266  | 229  | 208  | 1968                  | 49% | 4.70 ac.  |
|                     |     | 90%  | 79%  | 68%  | 62%  |                       |     |           |
| Head Count          | 732 | 647  | 563  | 498  | 442  |                       |     |           |
| Utilization (%)     |     | 88%  | 77%  | 68%  | 60%  |                       |     |           |
| Surplus Space (+,-) |     | 85   | 169  | 234  | 290  |                       |     |           |

This geographic area is considered by staff to be a maturing neighbourhood. This is asserted by the fact that over the course of the past five (5) years (2011-2015), enrolment within the affected schools has declined by approximately 13% overall and is projected to decline an additional 13% by 2020 (5 year), and by 21% by 2025 (10 year) – as shown in Table 1 above. It is anticipated that the rate of decline will remain stable over a 10 year period, as larger senior classrooms are replaced by smaller kindergarten registrations where declines are anticipated to plateau.

Today, the overall utilization rate of the schools within the **Burlington Southwest QEW** area is approximately 77% and will continue to decline to a utilization of 60% over a 10 year period as the neighbourhood continues to mature. Enrolment in both schools is distributed relatively evenly within the accommodation review area, with the majority of students residing in the St. John School boundary (approximately 60 more students as of 2015).

In reviewing long-term enrolment trends as well as future development potential, it does not appear that the underutilized spaces will be filled, leaving these school facilities operating at well below the 90% optimal utilization. A boundary review for all schools within the **CEB2: Burlington South of QEW Review Area** with the aim to re-apportion students is not a viable opportunity in this scenario to enhance utilization – in 2015 there are 1,330 students enrolled, compared to 1,850 classroom pupil spaces (71% utilization). To achieve an optimal utilization, empty classroom spaces would need to be removed from the Board's inventory.

As an additional verification, staff retained Watson and Associates to conduct a peer review of the enrolment projections generated by staff, completed a demographic analysis of the affected areas served by the two (2) schools and the merit of the proposal presented in the Initial Staff Report. The peer review confirmed Staff's long term projections and concluded

that the proposed school consolidation project was viable and met the conditions set out by the Ministry of Education.

### 2.2.1 Enrolment Projections

Table 2 below illustrates the enrolment projections for the schools within the **Burlington Southwest QEW** accommodation review area. As mentioned previously, the enrolment projections were reviewed and supported by third party consultants (Watson and Associates).

**Table 2: Projected Enrolment – Burlington Southwest QEW Accommodation Review Area**

| School Name         | OTG | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---------------------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| St. John (B) CES    | 395 | 297  | 297  | 292  | 277  | 273  | 269  | 263  | 252  | 237  | 237  | 234  |
|                     |     | 75%  | 75%  | 74%  | 70%  | 69%  | 68%  | 67%  | 64%  | 60%  | 60%  | 59%  |
| St. Paul CES        | 337 | 266  | 253  | 237  | 237  | 229  | 229  | 223  | 219  | 211  | 212  | 208  |
|                     |     | 79%  | 75%  | 70%  | 70%  | 68%  | 68%  | 66%  | 65%  | 63%  | 63%  | 62%  |
| Head Count          | 732 | 563  | 550  | 529  | 514  | 502  | 498  | 486  | 471  | 448  | 449  | 442  |
| Utilization (%)     |     | 77%  | 75%  | 72%  | 70%  | 69%  | 68%  | 66%  | 64%  | 61%  | 61%  | 60%  |
| Surplus Space (+,-) |     | 169  | 182  | 203  | 218  | 230  | 234  | 246  | 261  | 284  | 283  | 290  |

### 2.2.2 Academic Programs

As part of the recommendation, staff seeks to re-direct all existing programs offered at the two (2) affected schools to the new Burlington Southwest QEW School, which are part of the Assumption Catholic Secondary School Family of Schools. Accordingly, the new addition and alterations to the Burlington Southwest QEW School will offer the regular track JK-8 program. All programming will be in conformity with the Board's long-term strategy in offering a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning experience.

Through the community consultation process, it was suggested that a French Immersion Program should be explored as an added enhancement to the Burlington South QEW area. Although the program is currently under review, there is opportunity upon request to explore the potential of adding Extended French Immersion in south Burlington. To be successful however, it would necessary to have a larger school population as opposed to the current situation, which would have the effect of pulling from other schools with declining enrolment to sustain the program. However, it is not expected that the French Immersion program will increase the overall enrolment of the proposed school, as typically, the program would primarily draw from students already attending the school.

### 2.2.3 Facility Condition Index (FCI)

Using the 5-year renewal needs, an FCI can be calculated. Table 3 below summarizes the 5-year FCI for the two (2) affected schools within the **Burlington Southwest QEW** accommodation review area.

**Table 3: Facility Condition Index Summary**

| SCHOOL NAME             | ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION | OTG        | 5 YEAR RENEWAL NEEDS | REPLACEMENT VALUE   | FACILITY CONDITION INDEX |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>St. John (B) CES</b> | 1995                  | 395        | \$1,052,161          | \$8,159,610         | 13 %                     |
| <b>St. Paul CES</b>     | 1968                  | 337        | \$3,473,213          | \$7,503,080         | 46 %                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b>1982 (avg.)</b>    | <b>732</b> | <b>\$4,525,374</b>   | <b>\$15,662,690</b> | <b>30% (avg.)</b>        |

St. Paul School was constructed in 1968 and is currently 48 years of age, whereas St. John (B) School was built in 1995 and is currently 21 years of age. School facilities of approximately 50 years of age, such as St. Paul School, typically have many critical building component that are reaching the end of their useful lifecycle. As shown in Table 3 above, the average Facility Condition Index of the two (2) facilities is approximately 30%, with a total 5-year renewal need of approximately \$4.5M dollars and a collective replacement value of approximately \$15.7M. It should be underscored that St. Paul School will need approximately \$3.5M or 75% of the required school renewal work. It is important to note that the facility renewal costs account primarily for the replacement of critical building components and do not account for improvement items, such as accessibility, fire safety improvements, LED lighting, natural Kindergarten playgrounds and other modernization improvements that would have the effect of improving programming or energy efficiency. Moreover, the on-the-ground building capacity (OTG) of the two (2) facilities within the accommodation review area are below the optimal school facility size of 500-671 pupil places.

### 2.2.4 School Site Description

The site conditions at the two facilities within the accommodation review area can be summarized as shown in Table 4.

**Table 4: Option Development Criteria Summary – Burlington Southwest QEW**

| SCHOOL                  | SITE SIZE (ACRES) | SITE DESCRIPTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>St. John (B) CES</b> | 1.98              | Undersized site. Parking or bus loading area shared with adjacent parish St. John Church, which increases the actual total site size that the Board has access to. The site has three streets on its perimeter which will greatly assist with access for pedestrians, buses, and vehicular traffic. |
| <b>St. Paul CES</b>     | 4.70              | Site is slightly undersized, but is located adjacent to a community park and Assumption CSS, where the school track currently consumes a large portion of the site.                                                                                                                                 |

Table 5 below details how each school, in its current state, meets the preferred development criteria to be considered when reviewing pupil accommodation options.

**Table 5: Option Development Criteria Summary – Burlington Southwest QEW Status Quo**

| CRITERIA                                    | ST. JOHN (B) CES                                                                                                                                        | ST. PAUL CES                                    |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Facility Utilization between 90-125%</b> | No                                                                                                                                                      | No                                              |
| <b>500-671 FBC</b>                          | No                                                                                                                                                      | No                                              |
| <b>Portable Classroom Needs</b>             | No                                                                                                                                                      | No                                              |
| <b>Fully Accessible</b>                     | No                                                                                                                                                      | No                                              |
| <b>Transportation Time</b>                  | Well below maximum travel times                                                                                                                         | Well below maximum travel times                 |
| <b>Average Distance to School</b>           | 1.32 kilometers                                                                                                                                         | 1.75 kilometers                                 |
| <b>Site Size (Approx. 5+ acres)</b>         | Under Preferred size (1.96 acres), but sharing agreement with adjacent parish and access to three municipal streets increases overall usable site space | Under preferred size (4.7 acres)                |
| <b>Adjacent Uses</b>                        | Residential; Church; and Car Dealership                                                                                                                 | Residential; Community Park; and Assumption CSS |
| <b>Site Limitation</b>                      | Shared parking and playground with adjacent church                                                                                                      | N/A                                             |

As part of the consultation process, staff was frequently asked the questions as to why the St. Paul School and site was not the preferable location for the new school, especially given the fact that the St. Paul site was larger. When staff reviewed the potential site options, it was



not solely based on the available acreage on site. The following considerations were also made:

- 1) **The Centrality of the site in relation to where students reside** – in this instance, St. John School captures the highest number of students within a 5 km radius in comparison to St. Paul School.
- 2) **Transportation Times and Average Distance to School** – In being more central, the transportation times are reduced and the average distances are also in turn reduced.
- 3) **Adjacent uses** – Staff has regard for the adjacent uses if they present an impediment to the proper operations of a school.
- 4) **Usable site acreage for St. Paul School** – The St. Paul School site currently has approximately 1.52 acres of its site consumed by the Assumption Secondary School also weather sports field and running track, which limits the building opportunity for a rebuild or addition to the existing St. Paul School.
- 5) **Usable site acreage for St. John School** – The St. John School site, albeit that the Board only owns 1.98 acres of it, has a shared use agreement with the adjacent parish, making the total usable site acreage approximately 3.96 acres (exclusive of the parking lot section that the Parish rents to a commercial use), making it comparable to the acreage of St. Paul School site (4.7 acres). Furthermore, St. John School is also located next to a parish.
- 6) **The age of the facility** – all else being equal, if the St. Paul School were to be used, staff would be requesting the Ministry to fund the construction of a new 527 pupil place facility at a significant cost (as the St. Paul School has far too much facility renewal needs to build an addition on to the building and the school spaces do not meet current benchmarks, whereas utilizing the existing St. John School (21 year old facility) to construct a 144 pupil place addition and alterations would be more cost effective

Although St. Paul School is designated as the holding school for the transition year, staff does not believe this is an ideal location for the long-term, but adequate for the short term. See Figure 1 for a direct comparison of both sites (as presented at the CCM on March 8, 2016).

Also note that this proposal assumes that only facilities within the current accommodation review area should be considered as part of the transition plan. This said, if the Burlington Southeast QEW proposal is approved as the recommendation stands, St. Raphael School could be potentially used as a holding school for St. John School, if the current Burlington Southwest QEW 144 pupil place addition project is delayed by one (1) year – contingent on Ministry approval.



**Figure 1: St. John School Site and St. Paul School Site Comparison**



#### **ST. JOHN (B) CES**

- **Total site size:** approximately 1.96 acres in total – yellow outline
- **Usable site size:** approximately 3.96 acres
- **Play space area:** 1.65 acres – pink outline
- Adjacent to parish with existing shared use agreement
- Access to site by three (3) municipal streets – improves site functionality
- School Built in 1995 (21 years)

#### **ST. PAUL CES**

- **Total site size:** approximately 4.70 acres in total – yellow outline
- **Usable site size:** approximately 2.97 acres
- **Play space area:** 1.28 acres – pink outline (2.8 acres with running track)
- Regular shaped lot – shares site with Assumption for the Track (limited use)
- Small frontage – limited bus/vehicle access
- Potential to use lands for secondary project
- School Built in 1968 (48 years)

### **2.2.5 Transportation Summary Data**

Current transportation data was provided by the Halton Student Transportation Service (HSTS). Student data was derived from the 2015-16 school year, and aggregated into the data displayed in Table 6.

As of the December 31, 2015, transportation data, there are a total of 95 transported students within the **Burlington Southwest QEW Neighbourhood**. A preliminary analysis of the proposed attendance boundary for the proposed Burlington Southwest School estimates that a total of 277 students would be eligible for transportation, which is 49% of the student school population.

HSTS has informed staff that for the 2015-16 school year, the average bus times for students enrolled in the Regular Track program of the Board is approximately 14 minutes. It can be anticipated that travel times can range between 15-25 minutes within the area.

**Table 6: Transportation Summary Data for Status Quo**

| SCHOOL NAME      | TOTAL STUDENTS | ELIGIBLE RIDERS <sup>1</sup> | COURTESY RIDERS | TOTAL     | PERCENTAGE OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS | AVERAGE DISTANCE |
|------------------|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| St. John (B) CES | 297            | 29                           | 1               | 30        | 10%                             | 1.32 km          |
| St. Paul CES     | 266            | 66                           | 7               | 73        | 27%                             | 1.75 km          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>563</b>     | <b>95</b>                    | <b>8</b>        | <b>93</b> | <b>17%</b>                      | <b>1.54 km</b>   |

**NOTE:** As per the HSTS Operating Procedure HS-1-003 – Eligibility Factors, elementary students that reside more than 1.6 kilometers from their home school are eligible for transportation. Eligibility for transportation may also be granted in instances where there are potential safety hazards along the student route.

## 2.2.6 Meeting Program Needs and Accessibility Standards

21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning environments require flexible spaces that can be used for multiple purposes, including group collaboration, breakout meetings and one-to-one teaching. All facilities within the accommodation review area were evaluated against the Board's standard for the construction of new school facilities for several programming criteria. The results of this evaluation are summarized in Table 7.

**Table 7: Facility Programming Needs**

| CRITERIA                         | BENCHMARK                             | ST. JOHN (B) CES            | ST. PAUL CES |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Gymnasium</b>                 | Double gym                            | Double gym                  | Single gym   |
| <b>Kindergarten Space</b>        | 1,100 m <sup>2</sup> with washroom    | Adequate for current size   | Adequate     |
| <b>Resource Rooms/Space</b>      | ~1 Resource room per 100 pupil places | Sufficient for current size | Inadequate   |
| <b>Program Teacher Workspace</b> | Workstation + resource storage        | Sufficient for current size | Inadequate   |

## 2.3 Initial Staff Report Recommendation

Staff is recommending the consolidation of two (2) schools (namely St. John School and St. Paul School), where the student population residing at St. Paul School would be redirected to the **newly renovated Burlington Southwest QEW 527 pupil place school (previously St. John School with a 144 pupil place addition) for the 2017-18 school year**. The concept plan is available in Appendix I.

**Altogether, to fund the project, the Board is requesting \$5,016,402 for the Burlington Southwest QEW School Project which consists of \$2,950,654 Addition**

**Construction, \$66,660 for Demolition work, and \$1,999,088 Alterations** as part of Ministry Memorandum B16: School Consolidation Capital, submitted on February 29, 2016.

Staff recommends that the following actions be taken within the **Burlington Southwest QEW** accommodation review area:

- 1) Construct a six (6) classroom, 144 pupil place addition to the existing St. John School, and renovate approximately 2,000 square metres within the existing school; and,
- 2) Close St. Paul School, and retain the school site property for a future secondary consolidation project.

As indicated in Table 8 below, the proposed accommodation plan would have the effect of removing a total of 205 pupil spaces and achieving an average 10 year utilization of approximately 91%. This plan will also allow for a number of operational and capital/renewal savings over a 10 year period – discussed in Section 2.3.2 and Section 2.3.3 – as well as ensure that programming, accessibility standards, and energy efficiency will be significantly enhanced with the construction of an addition and alterations to the existing building resulting in a new state of the art school facility.

**Table 8: Projection – Burlington Southwest QEW School Rebuild**

|                             |     | Opening | 5 year projection |      |      |      |      | 10 year projection |      |      |      |      |
|-----------------------------|-----|---------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|--------------------|------|------|------|------|
| School Name                 | OTG | 2017    | 2018              | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023               | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
| Burlington Southwest School | 527 | 531     | 517               | 507  | 502  | 490  | 475  | 455                | 456  | 450  | 444  | 438  |
|                             |     | 101%    | 98%               | 96%  | 95%  | 93%  | 90%  | 86%                | 87%  | 85%  | 84%  | 83%  |
| Surplus Space (+,-)         |     | -4      | 10                | 20   | 25   | 37   | 52   | 72                 | 71   | 77   | 83   | 89   |

The newly constructed school will offer the regular JK-8 program, with two self-contained special education programs.

### 2.3.1 Walking and Transportation Considerations

A preliminary analysis of the proposed attendance boundary for the proposed school approximates that a total of 277 students would be eligible for transportation, being 49% of the student school population. The average distance to the new school is approximately 2.16 kilometers for all students, which is 0.62 km increase in average distance. Below, Table 9 summarizes the current situation and the proposed solution:

**Table 9: Transportation Comparison Summary**

| SCHOOL NAME                     | TOTAL STUDENTS<br>(OCTOBER<br>2015) | ELIGIBLE RIDERS<br>(DECEMBER<br>2015) | PERCENTAGE OF<br>STUDENTS | AVERAGE<br>DISTANCE | TOTAL<br>BUSSING<br>COST |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Status Quo<br/>(Current)</b> | 563                                 | 95                                    | 17%                       | 1.54 km             | \$131,000                |
| <b>Proposed Solution</b>        | 563                                 | 277                                   | 49%                       | 2.16 km             | \$144,000                |
| <b>Difference</b>               | <b>0</b>                            | <b>+182</b>                           | <b>+32%</b>               | <b>+0.62 km</b>     | <b>+\$13,000</b>         |

The Halton Student Transportation Service (HSTS), confirms that although a higher number of students will be transported, with the use of a higher distribution of large buses over small buses, the annual busing costs are anticipated to increase by approximately \$13,000, even with a higher number of transported students. Please refer to Appendix J to see the estimated walking distance map.

The transportation needs cost estimate analysis conducted by HSTS reviewed the current number of vehicle routes operating in the affected area and compared it to the consolidation proposal by completing proposed routes based on the new boundary to calculate the number of future busing route needs. The projected costs assume an increase in route costs (inflation) over two (2) years and route sharing with the co-terminus board (HDSB). Further savings are anticipated depending on overall program needs in the future of both boards, which at this time have not been considered.

### 2.3.2 Current vs. Proposed Capital Cost Savings

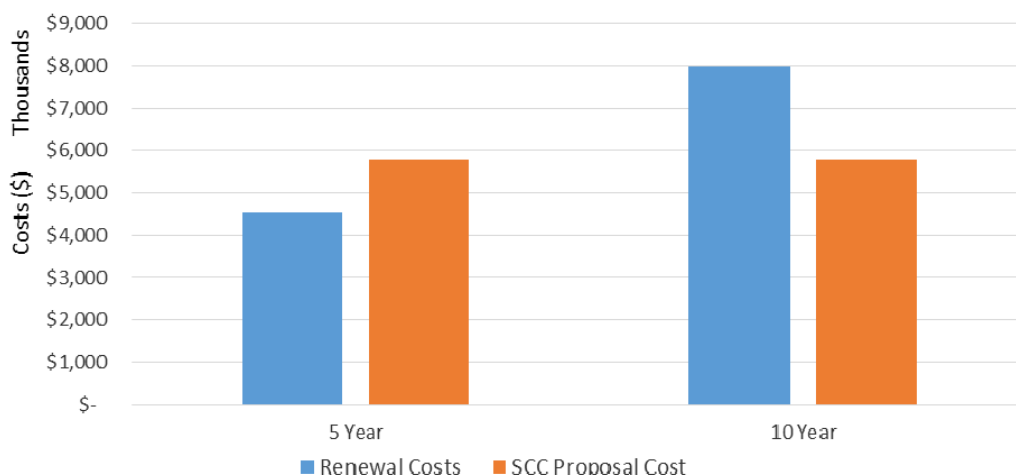
Currently, the 5 year renewal needs for the two (2) affected schools amount to approximately \$4.7M, which is expected to rise to approximately \$8.0M over a 10 year period. At 5 years, this total amounts to 78% of the proposed consolidation project construction cost of \$5.8M, and at 10 years, 139% of the construction and renewal costs for a new school facility. This information is summarised in Table 10 and in Figure 2.

In renewal costs alone, the payback period is expected to be reached in less than a 10 year timeframe, where renewal does not account for any required investments to update existing school facilities with current accessibility, fire safety improvements, natural kindergarten playgrounds and other modernization improvements that this project would have the effect of introducing.

**Table 10: Capital Cost Comparison**

| Existing Schools                                 | Code    | 5 Year             | 10 Year            |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|
| St. John (B) CES                                 | JOHB    | \$1,052,161        | \$3,672,069        |
| St. Paul CES                                     | PAUL    | \$3,473,213        | \$4,324,935        |
| <b>Total Burlington SW Review Area Cost (\$)</b> |         | <b>\$4,525,374</b> | <b>\$7,997,004</b> |
| <b>New Burlington Southwest QEW School</b>       | Capital | \$4,703,854        | \$4,703,854        |
|                                                  | DEMO    | \$66,660           | \$66,660           |
|                                                  | Renewal | \$1,000,000        | \$1,000,000        |
| <b>Total Burlington Southwest QEW Cost (\$)</b>  |         | <b>\$5,770,514</b> | <b>\$5,770,514</b> |

**Figure 2: Capital Cost Comparison**



### 2.3.3 Current vs. Proposed Operating Cost Savings

As part of this cost analysis, operating expenses include: maintenance costs, custodial costs, utilities (electric, gas, water), portable classroom costs, and transportation costs. Other staffing cost considerations have not been included at this current time, but are anticipated to result in additional cost savings. Refer to Table 11 for a cost breakdown, and Figure 3 for an annual cost comparison.

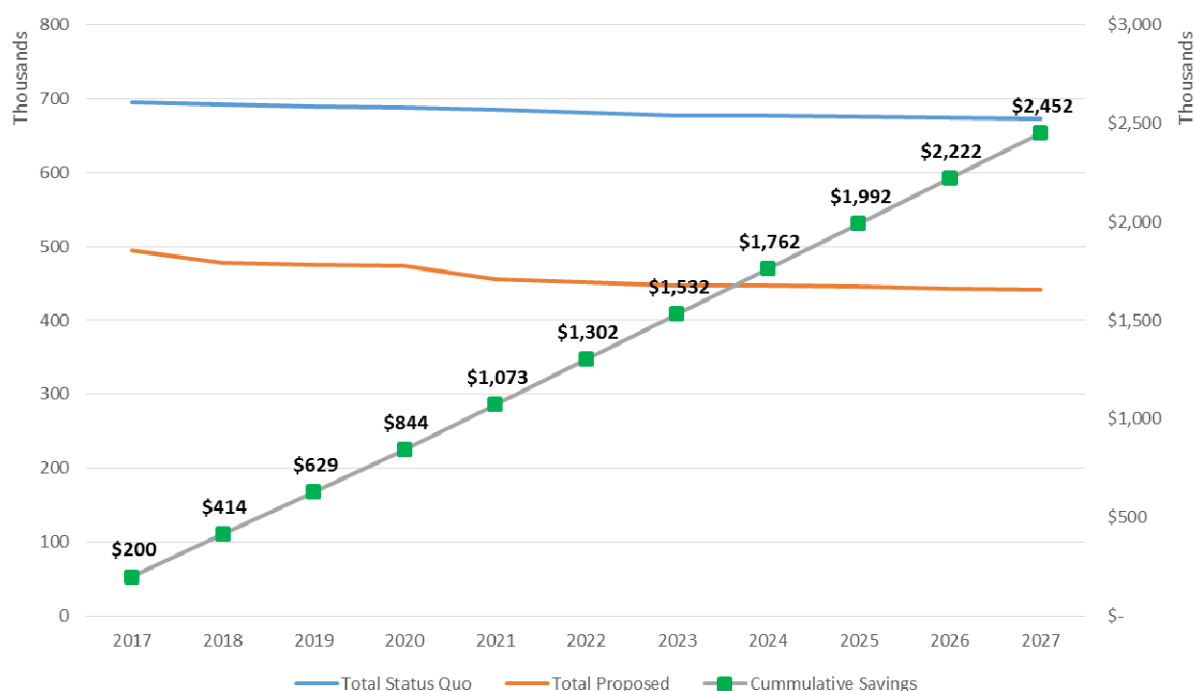
Currently, the annual operating expenditure for the two (2) existing schools is estimated at \$695,159 dollars. The proposed solution of a consolidated school, operating expenditure for St. John School was used and pro-rated with the additional floor space proposed. Transportation costs will also increase marginally as the number of eligible riders increased. The proposed option's operating costs are estimated at \$495,164, a first year savings of \$199,995, which will increase to approximately \$230,000 once portable classroom needs

decrease over time. Over a 10 year period, this is anticipated to reach a cumulative savings of \$2.5M.

**Table 11: Annual Operational Cost Comparison**

|                                            |                          | 2017             | 2022               | 2027               |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Status Quo Option</b>                   | Operational Costs        | \$564,159        | \$564,159          | \$564,159          |
|                                            | Transportation Costs     | \$131,000        | \$117,160          | \$108,167          |
|                                            | Portable Classroom Costs | \$-              | \$-                | \$-                |
|                                            | <b>Total Status Quo</b>  | <b>\$695,159</b> | <b>\$681,319</b>   | <b>\$672,325</b>   |
| <b>Proposed Option<br/>Total BSES Cost</b> | Operational Costs        | \$323,164        | \$323,164          | \$323,164          |
|                                            | Transportation Costs     | \$144,000        | \$128,787          | \$118,901          |
|                                            | Portable Classroom Costs | \$28,000         | \$-                | \$-                |
|                                            | <b>Total Proposed</b>    | <b>\$495,164</b> | <b>\$451,951</b>   | <b>\$442,064</b>   |
| <b>Annual Savings</b>                      |                          | \$199,995        | \$229,368          | \$230,261          |
| <b>Cumulative Savings</b>                  |                          | <b>\$199,995</b> | <b>\$1,301,984</b> | <b>\$2,452,020</b> |

**Figure 3: Annual Operational Cost Comparison**



## 3.0 Consultation Process and Feedback Gathered

Staff acknowledged from the beginning that the process of school consolidations will have a significant impact on school communities. Thus, gathering as much community feedback as possible will help better inform staff of the community's needs and provide trustees with a breadth of knowledge of the community's outlook on the proposal. The following subsections summarize the feedback gathered to date.

### 3.1 Notification Methods

Board staff have made every effort to ensure the community was adequately notified of the Board's approval of the Modified Pupil Accommodation Review process being undertaken in Southwest Burlington.

1. Board website updated on January 20, 2016 – Pupil Accommodation Review button placed prominently on the landing page of the website. Updates ongoing.
2. Email letters and FAQ sheet distributed to each parent and staff member in the impacted school communities on January 20, 2016. Follow up emails sent to parents on January 27<sup>th</sup>, February 17<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and March 17<sup>th</sup>.
3. Copy of letter to staff and an FAQ sheet shared with Presidents of Unionized Employee Groups on January 20, 2016.
4. Letter sent via email to St. John Parish Pastor and St. Raphael Parish Pastor on January 26, 2016.
5. Hardcopy letters hand-delivered on January 26, 2016 to neighbours and residents adjacent to and abutting the school communities.
6. Online discussion forum; Available from January 27, 2016  
([www.muut.com/burlington-southwest-mpar](http://www.muut.com/burlington-southwest-mpar))
7. Media Release – Distributed January 28, 2016
8. Letters sent to Regional Chair, Mayor of Burlington and Local Councillors, and Member of Provincial Parliament for Burlington on January 29, 2016.
9. Presentations to School Staff  
(February 2, 2016 at St. John School; February 4, 2016 at St. Paul School)
10. Presentations to Catholic School Councils  
(February 8, 2016 at St. Paul School; February 29 at St. John School)
11. An online survey; Available February 17 to March 11, 2016.
12. School newsletter/website message was provided to schools.
13. Community Consultation Meeting on March 8, 2016, at Assumption CSS
  - c. Parking Lot Questions
  - d. Transcribed Responses to Questions



## 3.2 Feedback Opportunities

A number of opportunities were provided for the community to provide their feedback on Staff's recommended proposal. This information was gathered and collated by staff, and attached as Appendix B to Appendix F. The following subsections summarize each opportunity.

### 3.2.1 Parent Council / Staff Presentations

Staff met with St. John School staff and parents on February 2, 2016 and February 29, 2016. Staff met with St. Paul School staff and parents on February 4, 2016 and February 8, 2016. A presentation was given that provided an overview of why a Modified PAR was recommended and how staff arrived at the recommended option to consolidate the two (2) affected schools. Staff informed attendees about the next steps in the MPAR process.

### 3.2.2 Online Forums

An online forum has been active for parents and community members since January 27.

| # of Registered Users | # of Active Users<br>(Posted Comments) | Total # of Comments<br>Posted |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 103                   | 21                                     | 135                           |

A total of 103 users registered on the forum. Many of the predominant themes from the forum have been echoed at the Community Consultation Meeting. A complete record of what has been posted on the forum is available in Appendix B.

### 3.2.3 Online Survey

Between the dates of February 17, 2016, to March 11, 2016, the Strategic Communications Department opened an online survey portal that contained the same three (3) questions that were to be presented at the Community Consultation Meeting on March 8, 2016.

A total of 77 survey responses were received from community members. Please refer to Appendix C for a preliminary analysis of the online survey results completed by the Research and Development Services Department.

### 3.2.4 Community Consultation Meeting (CCM)

A Community Consultation Meeting was hosted on March 8, 2016 at Assumption CSS. Prior to the meeting 213 members of the community pre-registered to attend, 175 attended



including 53 that had not pre-registered. This represents approximately 23% of the total population of school aged children. Table 12 below summarizes who attended the meeting, and which boundaries the attendees are geographically located – a map of this information is provided in Appendix K.

The format of the Community Consultation Meeting (CCM) started with staff providing parents and community members with an information session of the review process, the recommended option, and the concerns and feedback received to that point in time. The attendees were seated around tables in groups of up to ten (10) with one (1) staff or parent volunteer acting as a scribe. Three (3) questions were posed to the attendees (the same as the online survey), which included the following:

- 1) What do you like best about the proposed plan?
- 2) What challenges do you see with the proposed plan?
- 3) Do you have any suggestions to improve the proposed plan?

**Table 12: Breakdown of Community Consultation Attendance**

| School Name   | 2015 Enrolment | Registered | Walk Ins | Attending Registrants | Did not Attend | TOTAL Attendance |
|---------------|----------------|------------|----------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|
| St. John CES  | 297            | 45         | 8        | 24                    | 21             | <b>32</b>        |
|               |                | 18%        | 3%       | 10%                   | 8%             | <b>13%</b>       |
| St. Paul CES  | 266            | 142        | 34       | 82                    | 60             | <b>116</b>       |
|               |                | 57%        | 14%      | 33%                   | 24%            | <b>46%</b>       |
| Out of Bounds | NA             | 26         | 11       | 16                    | 10             | <b>27</b>        |
| TOTAL         | 563            | 213        | 53       | 122                   | 91             | <b>175</b>       |
|               |                | 28%        | 7%       | 16%                   | 12%            | <b>23%</b>       |

Each attendee at the table had an opportunity to respond to each question and had their response recorded by the scribe. The results of the table discussions were compiled and are attached as Appendix D.

Although there was no open question session, during the breakout session, staff were available to address any comments and concerns in a small group setting. Additional questions from the community were collected on large pads of paper, for all to see, and for parents to record their questions and receive a formal response from staff. Once reviewed, staff compiled the answers to the question and posted them on the Board website. These questions are referred to as 'Parking Lot Questions', and are included in Appendix E.

### 3.2.5 Other Communications

Further to the above detailed consultation, additional correspondence was received in hardcopy and via email, offering feedback on the proposed recommendation. This feedback has been provided in Appendix F.

## 4.0 Transition Planning Overview

If the Board of Trustees approves staff's recommendation or part thereof, it is required under Administrative Procedure VI-35: School Accommodation Review – Closure/Consolidation, that a Transition Committee be established.

The Accommodation Transition may undertake the following process after final approval from the Board and the Ministry is received and funding is granted to proceed with the project:

- Re-locate all St. John (B) School students to St. Paul School until the construction of the 6 classroom, 144 pupil place addition and alterations to the existing building are completed. Portable classrooms will be required at St. Paul School to accommodate the St. John School students during the construction period. As discussed on page 12 of the present report, if the Burlington Southeast QEW recommendations are approved, St. Raphael could be used as the holding school for St. John – contingent on Ministry of Education funding approval timelines;
- Upon completion of the new addition and alterations at St. John (B) School, all students will be relocated to St. John (B); and,
- St. Paul School will close and will remain a Board property. It may be utilized in the future as part of a project in south Burlington.

A Transition Committee is only undertaken in the event that the Board of Trustees approves the recommended option and that Ministry Funding is approved and made available. In absence of these approvals, no change occurs.

Considerations of the Transition Committee could also include but not be limited to;

- Moving Logistics
- Home/School/Parish connections
- Transition of students
- School Organization
- School Name
- School Logo
- School Uniforms
- School Finances and Purchases
- School Closing Events

- School Community Introductions and Transition Activities
- Memorabilia, Art, Photographs and other school history
- Transition of Technology (iPads, laptops, smartboards)

Staff believes the recommended option will minimize the negative impacts for students and families. Dividing school communities is avoided in this option. Furthermore, this proposal includes a significant investment in the area, providing students and teachers with a state of the art teaching and learning facility.

## 5.0 Final Recommendation Option

In the Initial Staff Report presented to the Board of Trustees on January 19, 2016, for the **Burlington Southwest QEW** accommodation review area, only one (1) option was recommended by staff. This option, which consolidates two (2) existing elementary schools into an existing school facility with an addition and building alterations, has been reviewed by a third party consultant, Watson and Associates, and confirmed the declining enrolment trends as well as the viability of the school consolidation proposal project.

No modifications were made to the initial accommodation plan based on community feedback, as the proposed alternative option of using the St. Paul School site was not determined as feasible by Staff, given the constraints present on the St. Paul site and the long term secondary panel accommodation plans for Burlington South. The subsections below summarize Staff's final recommendation to the Board.

### 5.1 Accommodation Plan

Based on the needs of students, staff recommends that the following actions be taken within the **Burlington Southwest QEW** accommodation review area:

- 1) Construct a six (6) classroom, 144 pupil place addition to the existing St. John School, and renovate approximately 2,000 square metres within the existing school; and,
- 2) Close St. Paul School, and retain the school site property for a future secondary consolidation project.

It should be noted that a number of comments were received as per the ultimate location of the Burlington Southwest School. Staff maintains that the location of the Burlington Southwest School on the existing St. John School site is still optimal, as was outlined in section 2.2.4. In Figure 4 below, is the proposed Concept Plan for the new Burlington Southwest School on the existing St. John School Site. A more detailed site plan is provided in Appendix I.

**Figure 4: Conceptual Site Plan – Burlington Southwest School**

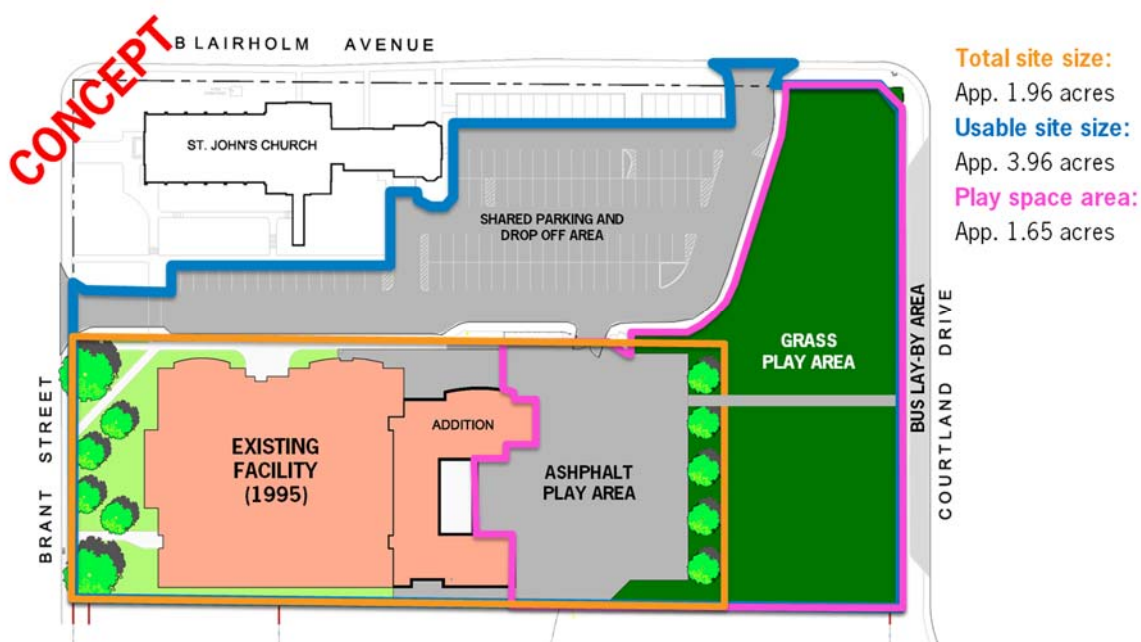


Table 13 and Figure 5 illustrate the enrolment projections for the proposed Burlington Southwest School project. It is important to note that depending on the school's classroom organization, portable classrooms are projected to be required in the first few years of the proposed new school's opening.

The need for portable classrooms during the early years of a new school's opening is typical of any new build as the intent is to construct for long term enrolment needs and prevent construction of space that will be empty in the long term. Based on the projected student enrolment, one portable classroom will be required for one year, possibly two (2) years.

**Table 13: Projection – Proposed Burlington Southwest CES**

|                             |     | Opening | 5 year projection |      |      |      |      | 10 year projection |      |      |      |      |
|-----------------------------|-----|---------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|--------------------|------|------|------|------|
| School Name                 | OTG | 2017    | 2018              | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023               | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
| Burlington Southwest School | 527 | 531     | 517               | 507  | 502  | 490  | 475  | 455                | 456  | 450  | 444  | 438  |
|                             |     | 101%    | 98%               | 96%  | 95%  | 93%  | 90%  | 86%                | 87%  | 85%  | 84%  | 83%  |
| Surplus Space (+,-)         |     | -4      | 10                | 20   | 25   | 37   | 52   | 72                 | 71   | 77   | 83   | 89   |

**Figure 5: Projection – Proposed Burlington Southwest CES Addition Project**

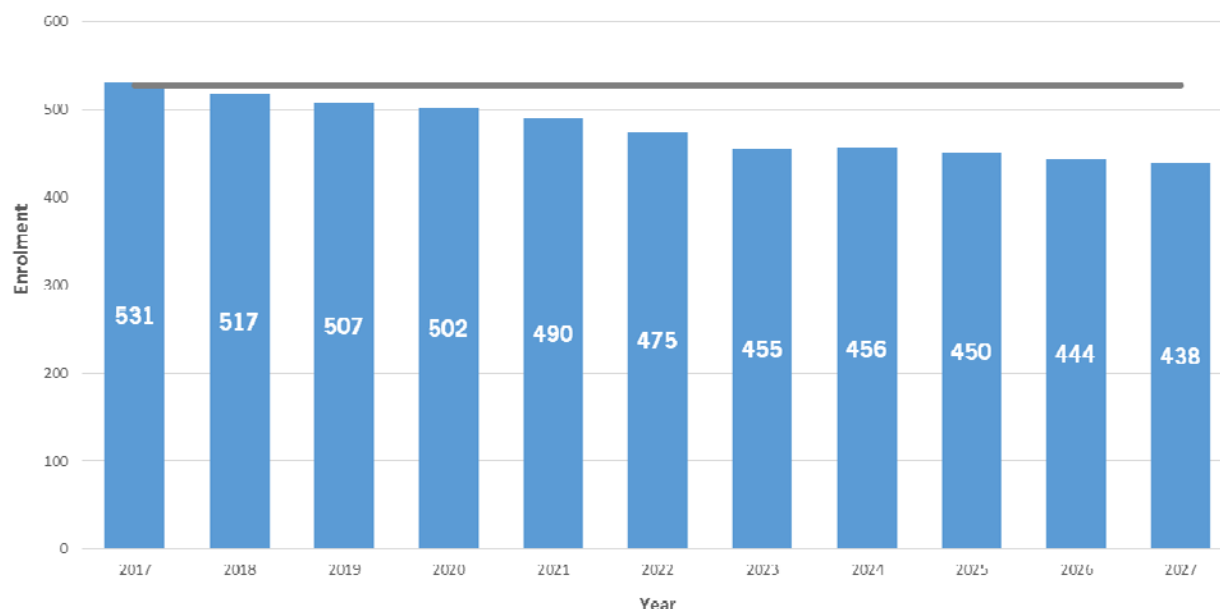


Table 14 below summarizes the evaluation of the Proposed School Consolidation option based on the staff defined criteria (introduced in Table 1 of the Background Report) to measure the viability of the proposed accommodation plan.

**Table 14: Projection – Proposed Burlington Southwest School on the St. John School Site**

| CRITERIA                             | DESCRIPTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | PROPOSED BURLINGTON SOUTHWEST QEW SCHOOL (NEW BUILD)                     | (✓) |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Facility Utilization between 90-125% | The optimal utilization for a school facility is between 90-125% to ensure that operational funding (both staffing and facility) is maximized on a by pupil basis. Situations where utilization is above 100% are often introduced to ensure that the Board does not build at peak enrolment, and instead at a sustainable enrolment level. | Yes, facility utilization remains above 90% and below 125% over 10 years | (✓) |
| 500-671 FBC/OTG                      | Based on previous experiences at the Board, and following Ministry Benchmarks defined by the Expert Panel (for school design), the optimal size for a facility's Functional Building Capacity (FBC) is between 500-671 pupil places for the Board. This ensures that a wide range of program, staff, special needs, and                     | 527 pupil place facility                                                 | (✓) |

| <b>CRITERIA</b>              | <b>DESCRIPTION</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>PROPOSED BURLINGTON SOUTHWEST QEW SCHOOL (NEW BUILD)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>(✓)</b> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
|                              | extra-curricular options are available to the students.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |            |
| Portable Needs               | Boards will often install portable classrooms at schools as a temporary accommodation solution in situations where peak student enrolment surpasses the built capacity. Portable classrooms are therefore used in situations to avoid overbuilding.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Yes, at peak one (1) portables will be required on site given the school will be just slightly above the build capacity. This will be removed after the first year.                                                                                                                                                                                                           | (✓)        |
| Accessibility                | Review accessibility constraints on site and within the facility to ensure that equal access for all students and potential community partners is provided.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Yes, accessibility improvements to be made to the existing school during the construction of the 6 classroom addition to meet current AODA guidelines and be fully accessible.                                                                                                                                                                                                | (✓)        |
| Transportation Times         | As per Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS) Operating Procedure HS-3-004 – Duration of Trip, wherever feasible bus trips shall not exceed 60 minutes for the elementary panel, and 75 minutes for the secondary panel.<br><br><i>Note: the 60 minute maximum is intended to address rural areas where distance is a factor. In-town routes are anticipated to be comparable to the average transportation time of 14 minutes for the regular track Program.</i> | All students transported will not exceed 60 minutes on the bus. Transportation times are expected to range between 10-25 minutes, reflecting the current Board average of 14 minutes.                                                                                                                                                                                         | (✓)        |
| Average Distance to School   | Consists of an average distance between student households to school accommodations, whereby lower averages typically represent a more centralized location.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 2.16 kilometers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | (✓)        |
| Site Size (Approx. 5+ acres) | In order to provide for adequate play space, parking facilities, pick up/drop off, bus loops, and other necessary exterior accommodations, a school site of five (5) or more acres is adequate.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Below Preferred Size, 1.96 acres. Site is undersized, but is located adjacent to the parish, whereby with the existing shared use agreement, the total usable site size is approximately 3.96 acres. Furthermore, with having access to three municipal roads, there is added opportunity to reduce on site traffic circulation. Lastly, the school and site orientation were | (✓)        |

| CRITERIA                              | DESCRIPTION                                                                                                                                                                   | PROPOSED BURLINGTON SOUTHWEST QEW SCHOOL (NEW BUILD)                                      | (✓) |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                               | designed to accommodate an addition of this nature.                                       |     |
| Adjacent Uses                         | Have consideration for adjacent uses, where some uses are more sympathetic to a school's daily operations than other (i.e. park spaces vs. commercial plaza strips).          | Residential; Parish; and Car Dealership                                                   | (✓) |
| Site Limitation(s)                    | Any additional factors that are unique to each school.                                                                                                                        | Shares parking with Parish                                                                |     |
| Community Use                         | Where feasible, look to collaborative builds with Board approved community partners, as identified in Operating Procedure VI-78: Community Planning and Facility Partnerships | None at the present time. School will however have a nutrition room as part of the design | (✓) |
| Reduction in Pupil Places             | With the phase out of "top up funding", does the proposal have the effect of eliminating excess pupil places?                                                                 | 205 pupil places removed                                                                  | (✓) |
| Renewal Cost Avoidance                | How much Capital Resources does the project have the effect of avoiding in renewal costs.                                                                                     | \$4.5M - \$8.0M between a 5 – 10 year range                                               | (✓) |
| Reduction of Yearly Operational Costs | How much Operational Savings are available with the proposal?                                                                                                                 | Approximately \$199,000 per year, and approximately \$2.5M over a 10 year period.         | (✓) |



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southwest QEW School Project**

# **APPENDIX A**



## Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

### Monday, January 18, 2016

- ☒ Principals impacted by MPARs take part in a teleconference about the MPAR report and potential implications for their school communities.

### Tuesday, January 19, 2016

- ☒ Principals impacted by MPARs notified that the Board of Trustees have approved to move ahead with the Modified Pupil Accommodation Review (MPAR) Process.

### Wednesday, January 20, 2016

- ☒ Website updated, with a dedicated page for each area under review: North Georgetown; Southeast Burlington; Southwest Burlington; South Oakville.
- ☒ Principals impacted by the MPARs receive key messages and FAQ to respond to parent and staff concerns.
- ☒ Letter template and FAQ for parents and staff **sent to each of the 10 Principals impacted by the MPAR for distribution to their parents and staff.**
- ☒ FAQ sheet and Principal's letter to staff shared with the Presidents of the Board's unionized employee groups.
- ☒ **School Staff Meetings** set up, as follows:
  - Monday, January 25 at 3:30 p.m. – St. Patrick
  - Wednesday, January 27 at 3:30 p.m. – St. James
  - Thursday, January 28 at 3:00 p.m. – Holy Cross
  - Monday, February 1 at 4:00 p.m. – St. Joseph
  - Tuesday, February 2 at 3:00 p.m. – St. John
  - Wednesday, February 3 at 4:00 p.m. - Ascension
  - Thursday, February 4 at 3:10 p.m. – St. Dominic
  - Thursday, February 4 at 3:30 p.m. – St. Paul
  - Friday, February 5 at 9:00 a.m. – St. Raphael
  - Wednesday, February 10 at 4:00 p.m. – St. Francis
- ☒ **Meetings with Catholic School Councils** set up as follows:
  - Wednesday, February 3, 2016 - Holy Cross
  - Thursday, February 4, 2016 – St. James
  - Monday, February 8, 2016 – St. Paul

## Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

- Thursday, February 11, 2016 – St. Raphael
- Wednesday, February 17, 2016 – St. Patrick
- Thursday, February 18, 2016 – St. Joseph
- Monday, February 22, 2016 – St. Francis of Assis
- Tuesday, February 23, 2016 – St. Dominic
- Thursday, February 25, 2016 - Ascension
- Monday, February 29, 2016 – St. John
- ☑ **Community Consultation Meetings** set up, as follows:
  - **Wednesday, March 2, 2016** at 7:00 p.m. at Assumption CSS – [Southeast Burlington](#)
  - **Thursday, March 3, 2016** at 7:00 p.m. at Christ the King CSS – [North Georgetown](#)
  - **Monday, March 7, 2016** at 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas CSS – [South Oakville](#)
  - **Tuesday, March 8, 2016** at 7:00 pm. At Assumption CSS – [Southwest Burlington](#)

### Friday, January 22, 2016

- ☑ **Information packages sent in hardcopy and via email to the following:** Clerks  
Departments at the 3 municipalities and the Region of Halton; coterminous boards; Ministry of Education

### Monday, January 25, 2016

- ☑ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Patrick

### Tuesday, January 26, 2016

- ☑ **Community Updates** hand-delivered to the neighbouring residents adjacent to the schools under review.
- ☑ An **email sent to parishes impacted by the MPARs**, to share information and request a time to meet.
- ☑ Meetings with the Pastors at parishes that are adjacent to school sites were set up as follows:
  - Thursday, January 28, 2016 –Msgr. Modeski, St. Patrick Parish
  - Tuesday, February 9, 2016 –Fr. Anderson, St. Dominic and Fr. Lensson, St. James
  - Friday, February 12, 2016 – Fr. Sims, St. John the Baptist
  - Wednesday, February 17, 2016 – Fr. Wagner, St. Raphael

## Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

### Wednesday, January 27, 2016

- ☑ **Online discussion forums created** for each of the four review areas.
- ☑ **Email invitation sent to Principals, and asked to share with all staff** - to attend Consultation Meetings and to share concerns on online forums.
- ☑ **Follow-up letter sent to all parents** (from Principals) in review areas – **inviting them to attend Consultation Meetings** and to **share concerns on online forums**. This information provided as information to Principals.
  - **Email** to all Ascension, St. Patrick and St. Raphael parents through the parent notification system to invite them to Consultation Meeting to take place on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - **Email** to all Holy Cross and St. Francis parents through the parent notification system to invite them to Consultation Meeting to take place on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - **Email** to all St. Dominic, St. James and St. Joseph through the parent notification system to invite them to Consultation Meeting to take place on March 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Email** to all St. John and St. Paul parents through the parent notification system to invite them to Consultation Meeting to take place on March 8<sup>th</sup>.
- ☑ **School Staff Meeting** at St. James.

### Thursday, January 28, 2016

- ☑ A letter sent from School SO to Catholic School Councils in 10 impacted schools to invite them to an information session.
- ☑ **News release** to our media contacts, which includes the date of the Community Consultation Meetings, as well as links to the Board's website for more information and to register to attend.
- ☑ The information about the MPAR Consultation Meetings **posted on the front page of our website** in the **sliding news**.
- ☑ A letter sent via email to the Mayors of Burlington, Halton Hills and Oakville.
- ☑ A letter sent via email to the local councillors in the communities impacted by the MPARs.
- ☑ A letter sent via email to the local MPPs in the communities impacted by the MPARs.
- ☑ A letter sent via email to the Regional Chair.
- ☑ **News Release sent out** about Community Consultation Meetings scheduled in March.
- ☑ A **schedule of tweets and posts set up** to communicate the information about the Community Consultation Meetings through our social media channels.
- ☑ **School Staff Meeting** at Holy Cross.
- ☑ Meeting with Msgr. Modeski, St. Patrick Parish.

## Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

### Monday, February 1, 2016

- ☒ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Joseph.
- ☒ **Presentation to CPIC.**

### Tuesday, February 2, 2016

- ☒ **School Staff Meeting** at St. John.

### Wednesday, February 3, 2016

- ☐ **School Staff Meeting** at Ascension.
- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at Holy Cross.

### Thursday, February 4, 2016

- ☐ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Dominic.
- ☐ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Paul.
- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. James.

### Friday, February 5, 2016

- ☐ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Raphael.

### Monday, February 8, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Paul.

### Tuesday, February 9, 2016

- ☐ Meeting with Fr. Anderson, St. Dominic Parish and Fr. Lensson, St. James Parish.

### Wednesday, February 10, 2016

- ☐ Meeting with Jim Long, Episcopal Director, Diocese of Hamilton.
- ☐ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Francis of Assisi.

## Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

### Thursday, February 11, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Raphael.

### Friday, February 12, 2016

- ☐ Meeting with Fr. Sims, St. John the Baptist Parish.

### Wednesday, February 17, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Raphael.
- ☐ Meeting with Fr. Wagner, St. Raphael Parish.

### Thursday, February 18, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Joseph.

### Monday, February 22, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Francis of Assisi.

### Tuesday, February 23, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Dominic.

### Wednesday, February 24, 2016

- ☐ **Online survey posted.**
- ☐ **Reminder** message (one week in advance) sent to Ascension, St. Patrick and St. Raphael parents about Consultation Meeting, **as well as to offer an opportunity to those who do not plan to attend the Consultation Meeting to provide their feedback through an online survey.**
- ☐ **Reminder** also communicated through **Twitter and Facebook.**
- ☐ **A message sent to all schools for their school newsletters/websites.**

## Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

- ☐ A follow-up **email to be sent to parishes** for consideration in sharing the information about consultation meeting with their parish community. Prepared **announcement/bulletin message** provided.

### Thursday, February 25, 2016

- ☐ **Reminder** message (one week in advance) to Holy Cross and St. Francis parents about Consultation Meeting.
- ☐ **Reminder** also communicated through **Twitter and Facebook**.
- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at Ascension.

### Monday, February 29, 2016

- ☐ **Reminder** message (one week in advance) to St. Dominic, St. James, and St. Joseph parents about Consultation Meeting.
- ☐ **Reminder** also communicated through **Twitter and Facebook**.
- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. John.

### Tuesday, March 1, 2016

- ☐ **Reminder** message (one week in advance) to St. John and St. Paul parents about Consultation Meeting.
- ☐ **Reminder** also communicated through **Twitter and Facebook**.

### Wednesday, March 2, 2016

- ☐ **Community Consultation Meeting** for **Southeast Burlington** – 7:00 p.m. at Assumption CSS.

### Thursday, March 3, 2016

- ☐ **Follow-up email** to all Ascension, St. Patrick and St. Raphael parents to thank those who attended the Community Consultation, and to remind those who did not attend of the opportunity to provide their **feedback through an online survey**.
- ☐ This information also **communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.
- ☐ **Community Consultation Meeting** for **North Georgetown** – 7:00 p.m. at Christ the King CSS.

## Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

### Friday, March 4, 2016

- ☐ **Follow-up email** to all Holy Cross and St. Francis parents to thank those who attended the Community Consultation, and to offer an opportunity to those who did not to provide their **feedback through an online survey**.
- ☐ This information also **communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.

### Monday, March 7, 2016

- ☐ **Community Consultation Meeting** for **South Oakville** – 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas CSS.

### Tuesday, March 8, 2016

- ☐ **Follow-up email** to all St. Dominic, St. James and St. Joseph parents to thank those who attended the Community Consultation, and to remind those who did not attend of the opportunity to provide their **feedback through an online survey**.
- ☐ This information also **communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.
- ☐ **Community Consultation Meeting** for **Southwest Burlington** – 7:00 p.m. at Assumption CSS.

### Wednesday, March 9, 2016

- ☐ **Follow-up email** to all St. John and St. Paul parents to thank those who attended the Community Consultation, and to remind those who did not attend of the opportunity to provide their **feedback through an online survey**.
- ☐ This information also **communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.
- ☐ **Reminder email** to all parents to **participate in the online survey** before it closes on Wednesday, March 11, 2016.
- ☐ Reminder **also communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.

### Friday, March 11, 2016

- ☐ Reminder **also communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.

## Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

### Friday, March 18, 2016

- ☐ **Email to all elementary parents** to thank them for their participation in the process, and to **let to let them know that the report has been posted** on the Board's website. The email will also note that the report will be presented to Trustees at the April 5, 2016 Board Meeting, and **review the process and timelines for delegations.**
- ☐ This information **communicated through Twitter and Facebook.**

### Tuesday, March 22, 2016

- ☐ **Special Board Meeting** – final report and recommendations presented to Board of Trustees

### Tuesday, April 5, 2016

- ☐ **Regular Board Meeting** – delegations received.

### Tuesday, April 19, 2016

- ☐ **Regular Board Meeting** – final decision by the Board of Trustees.

### Wednesday, April 20, 2016

- ☐ **Email** from School Superintendent to **10 Principals in impacted school communities to notify them about the decision of the Board on the final recommendations.**
- ☐ **A letter sent home to all parents** from School Superintendent to let them know about the decision of the Board.
- ☐ This information **also communicated through Twitter and Facebook.**





**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southwest QEW School Project**

# **APPENDIX B**



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 3

## Play Space and Parking

I have some questions I would like answered by the Board:

I have read through all the proposals for the schools affected by this review in Halton. In every other new build or renovation the “new” school has a lot size greater than the ideal 5+ acres in their plan. Georgetown West 5.94 acres. Ascension 5.75 acres. St Joseph 5.46 acres. St Dominic 7.10 acres. Why is the proposal for us to get 1.96 acres? Both St Paul and St John are under the ideal size, with the St John lot considerably smaller when you include the adjacent park, green space and the Assumption track – all of

### Channels

General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR

St. Paul Catholic Elementary School

St. John (Burlington) Catholic Elementary School

Online 1



which St Paul students have access to. How on earth do you propose to double the student population at St John, on a lot that is already almost 3 times smaller than the 5+ ideal size? Isn't the idea of the ideal 5+ acres so kids have space to run and play in a space that is not overcrowded and accommodate organized outdoor sports? The Board's own development criteria states “In order to provide for adequate play space, parking facilities, pick up / drop off, bus loops and other necessary exterior accommodations, a school of five (5) or more acres is adequate.” YOUR WORDS! Where are outdoor team sports supposed to be played? St Paul has a soccer team. Where are they to practice and play? The proposal states that all programs currently offered at both schools will still be available. Also where is the track team and cross country team to run? Right now we use the Assumption track.

Both our school (St Paul) and St John already have challenges with parking at dismissal time. If this goes through, where are we to park when we pick up and drop off our kids? Many parents I have spoken to at St Paul who currently pick up their kids are opting not to bus if this goes through...so where are we going to park? This information is taken right from your Accommodation review: “St. John Catholic Elementary School has no bus loop or parking located on school property. 45 parking spaces are available for school use at the adjacent St. John's Parish. An additional 100 parking spaces can be made available on the asphalt play area during special events. The total available parking and drop-off area is inadequate for a school with approximately 300 pupils.” There are currently 107 parking spaces at St Paul. The lot is already full (many times parents have to park in spots not designated for parking or along the laneway) at dismissal time. How do you plan on, at the very least, doubling the number of parents picking up kids at dismissal time and

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or parents parking spaces at school? And ensuring the safety of 550+ children? Do the math. 45 spots at St John, already full and 107 spots at St Paul, already full. Where are we going to park to drop off and pick up our kids? Can you not see that this is a safety issue?

Reply...



4d in **General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR** 2 3

## We are Both are at 80% capacity and doing well academically. So why?

I don't know about the rest of you but probably the most disturbing thing that occurred for me during the community meeting was my discussion with the young woman from the board that was brought over to answer my questions. When I asked her if it was accurate that after the addition of St. John school is added there would be 2 portables on site right away because we would already be exceeding capacity from the start. (Beyond 100% full) She told me yes. So I asked her what if you're wrong? What if you're wrong about declining enrolment numbers? Her response to me was a shoulder

Shrug and "more portables I guess". This response greatly upset me. The boards own proposal states that TWO portables on St. John site are not recommended nor safe in the long term. That the site is not large enough and is not suitable. So her response that not only will those two portables remain but that more would be added was surprising and upsetting. When I asked her to clarify her statements, and if what she

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was saying was that regardless of the boards proposal saying portables are not a viable or safe option in the long term future, would they still bring our children into portables on site, I was greeted with a blank stare and reiteration that numbers would decline. Since the boards predictions for declining numbers are based on trends over the last 10 years, the JK enrollment, and the birth rates. I'm reluctant to believe their data predictions could be accurate. This does not take into account that many parents do not enroll their children in junior kindergarten or even senior kindergarten as they are not mandatory grades. Many choose not to enroll their children in school until grade one which would change the data. Further to that not all infants are baptized until right before school age or indicate their religion on forms so I do not see how this birth rate data is a good way to determine Catholic students in the future. If they were to look to current trends and not past trends they would see that we are in the midst of the housing bubble, as well as very high demand for Family homes in the South Burlington area particularly around St. Paul school. This is not a condo and townhouse development area, this is primarily detached family homes. Real estate data shows that homes are selling like crazy with turnover been 30 days or less on most sales. Eliminating a school in this area would be a serious mistake.

I keep looking for the positives my children will experience by moving to St. John school. I would like to be happy with this possible decision and think it is in the best interest of my children but I keep struggling to come up with any. If the board would offer us a proposal that offered my children the same opportunities and community resources they currently have I would be more than happy to listen to it. Yes they're could be new friendships But that doesn't trump my children being offered a proposal that gives them a school site with less green space and parking,

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more crowded classrooms, the loss of their community connections, no ability to walk or ride bikes to school, a daily commute that will add hours to their day and take away from the family time I receive with my children after school and before school, the loss of amazing teacher/staff relationships my children have with all staff at their school whether they've ever been taught by them or not, The amazing extracurricular programs and events offered by parents and staff who are able to volunteer because they are Close by , and of course the Parish connections to our neighboring school and Church community. My children may not do well socially at the new school site but in addition to that they may actually academically suffer if they do not adjust. There are many studies to say that children who move schools often perform less well academically. Not to mention the adverse effects of not being able to walk to school in their local community. But I'm sure you all know this.

As parents who have had 3 children in the Catholic board for 15 years starting from JK all the way through high school, and an infant who we hoped would attend his community Catholic school in the next two years you're so distressed to think we may have to seriously consider moving into the public system in our neighbourhood. We ourselves went to Catholic school, as did our parents before us, our family members have taught in the system. We would've loved to have remained for years to come. This is not just a emotional opposition to this proposal it is a logical one. It doesn't benefit St. Paul's students or St. John's students either who would have to move twice. Think of our children before fiscal budgets. Think of our faith would Jesus want you to make decisions based on Economics or Emotion? Faith or Fiscal budgets?



4d  2

Not to gloss over your other points but this issue of

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Not to gloss over your other points but this issue of portables is very confusing. I too thought there was going to be 2 portables at the outset and I approached Overholt and Dawson at the meeting and inquired and they said no. They said the original plan called for 2 portables but now they were planning to build 6 classrooms so no portables – I guess the original plan was only for 4 classrooms – still not sure how they are going to cram 266 students into 6 classrooms, 2 of which are “flexible” classrooms – whatever that means. This all concerns me for many reasons. First of all we each got completely different answers to the same question so which is correct? The fact that they can't get the facts straight amongst themselves I think goes to show how hastily this has all been put together and without a lot of attention to detail...which is very scary particularly considering the timeline for implementation as well doesn't leave a lot of room for error. The responses you got from whomever you spoke to are atrocious and arrogant. I too am concerned with the fact they have left no room for error on the chance their projections are wrong and enrolment increases (remember Lakeshore Public School). Again, displaying arrogance that their projections can't possibly be wrong and therefore don't need to leave any room for error. This whole thing is starting to remind me of the Target debacle. Sadly it is our children that will pay the price.



3d

I don't know what they plan to do. Except give us different stories I guess . I do know that the original proposal says 4 to 6 Classrooms, and two portables.

Reply...

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in **General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR** 3

Since my original question has scrolled out of the discussion and there seems to be concerns from St Paul's end about 21st century learning, I'll repeat my earlier concern:

I currently teach at St John and I am very concerned both by the 'transition year' proposal and the aftermath. We currently have a very technology-oriented program in grades 6-8. If we are to be at St Paul's for a year, we will (presumably) be bringing our tech with us. What upgrades to the St Paul system will be made to accommodate doubling the load on both wifi and the computer system in general?

Related to this, we have a number of special needs students at all grade levels who rely heavily on wifi access. Presumably we new migrants will be in portables for a year at St Paul ... will there be wifi access in the portables at all? Will there be wifi of sufficient strength for a class of 25+ to all access Office 365 at the same time?

And of course, the concern when we return: will St John's current server (and system) be upgraded to handle double the number of students and (presumably) much increased access? It's pretty close to capacity right now (if not over) ...

And just to add on to my concerns ... the person who looks after the tech at St Paul's is also the person who does it at St John ... will he get double time at the 'new school' (and the transition school) since his workload isn't actually changing, or will the board reallocate half his time to some other school?



4d ❤️ 3

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I am A St. Paul parent and I'd also like to know the answer to your question since my children are prosed to be attending your school I would like to know as well what the resources will be there. We have been told no New technology would be coming to the new school but that our current smart boards, iPads, laptops, etc. would com with us. Which begs the question well then what does 21st-century learning mean? It seems to mean lovely glass architecture. With lovely communal hallways. And lovely concrete playgrounds. Which I don't think academically benefit either group of children.



4d ❤️ 2

This entire process is backwards! They'll just have to add this to the long list of items they currently don't have or care to have answers to. Their only focus right now is pushing this through so they get the funding and then deal with all the issues afterwards. Unfortunately they are not taking into account what these issues will pose to our children. ie no traffic studies to see if location can handle increased traffic???? and this issue about technology (which a lot of people are assuming 21st century means) They have responded to the West review that all existing tech will go with them – NO NEW TECHNOLOGY!!!! In my opinion and based on everything I have read or spoken to someone about, 21st Century means the 'Look' of the building only.



3d

But its OK because there will be plenty of time to sort it all out after Minsitry approval sometime in May,

Reply...

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1 5d in **General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR** 5 1

## 21st Century Buildings

Sounds great and all but what exactly does it mean? If Board is so concerned about modern facilities, why don't they do something about Assumption? There is no air conditioning in the large gym!! Not to mention just the general condition of that building. Great school, but the facilities leave a lot to be desired. Our high school students deserve better.



5d

Possibly if St Paul is consolidated to St John, the land will be used to improve the existing Assumption Secondary school.



1 5d

I would hope so. But they should be dealing with the issues at Assumption whether or not the consolidation happens.



4d

The only way the land of St. Paul could be used for an expansion to assumption is if the in between city owned Parkland was purchased.

4d

So that brings up of course the question of if that was a possibility for some chicken and why isn't it a possibility for St. Paul?

4d

Sorry that's supposed to say for ' Assumption' not for "some chicken". My AutoCorrect has a mind of its own. But I needed the laugh

Reply...

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23d in **General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR** 11 7

## Question for the Trustee

In the Board Meeting report/proposal it stated "a total of 266 students from St Paul's school would be transferred to St John's by 2018". My question is was a study completed asking if St Paul's school closes would the parents agree to have their children transferred to St John's or would they consider other options (like the Public School System)? Why is the report "assuming" that all 266 students would go to St. John's?



23d 2

good point , I dont know why the board makes any assumptions as to my childs choice of education. No one has agreed to having their children transferred and from the buzz on the playground many of us are going public should this go through.

23d 2

I value our catholic education but as a mother of three, convenience often wins over preference.



22d 3

Excellent point. I also question why weren't we provided with other Catholic School options. By also closing St. Raphael's, they eliminated another option that I would have considered. Three school closures limits our options.



17d

Not everyone agrees with said point. Catholic education is a priority for my children.

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4d ❤️ 1

A Catholic Education is also a priority for my children . Which is why I've had children in the Catholic school system for 15 years. Which is also why it greatly saddens me to know that this choice is being taken away from me and my family. And I definitely feel like it's being taken away from me. The two schools that would be within my area and are easily accessible to my children are both up for closure. I don't feel like offering to bus my children every single day until they're 13 years old 4 kilometers away into a school that is not in their local community is a viable choice for my family. One of my children in particular has anxiety and the fact that I am able to walk to school every day and see his face as he goes on to the playground is a reassurance for him and I. I have been numerous times I have actually walked into the school to speak to a teacher on the spur the moment about an issue, this all changes if my kids are on a bus everyday. Putting this same child on a school bus will affect him in many ways and is something that I'd have to seriously consider. Further to that I have an infant who would be attending Catholic school in 2 years. my choices for his junior kindergarten year would be to put him on a school bus at 3 1/2 years old or if possible drive him into school and fight it out in the church owned parking lot with all the other parents who are trying to do the same., parking lot that is not being expanded. My children will receive Catholic education whether they get them in school or not. Connection through our Home and the parish will assure they have access to Mass, the Sacraments, and their Faith. It's just unfortunate that they can't also get this within their local school.



1 4d ❤️ 3

I don't think any consideration has been given to children with anxiety issues and/or our special needs

population, some of which struggle significantly with change of any kind never mind a change of this magnitude where they would be going through 2 years of significant change followed in some cases by the transition to high school.



4d ❤️ 4

The parking will be a nightmare. I'm sure they haven't considered the fact that if this does happen, many parents of children who should be on a bus will be driving them instead. Is the city ok with the traffic congestion this will cause as vehicles back up onto Brant St while waiting to get into and find a spot in the current parking lot?



4d ❤️ 4

From what I read on Southeast parking lot question responses is the traffic studies will be done after the proposal is approved. Seems like they are putting the cart before the horse or should I say the bus before the students.

4d ❤️ 3

Not to mention the congestion on Courtland Drive at 3:00 which is already almost impassable some days and they are planning to use as a bus lane. Which they have not bothered to inform the property owners about.



4d ❤️ 4

Completely ridiculous and backwards! I love the fact that people in charge who don't even live in our neighbourhoods seem to think this won't be an issue. This is where the issue of safety for our children comes into play once again.



4d ❤️ 3

as well as property values...imagine not being able to back out of your driveway during school pick up times

16/03/2016

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every day

Reply...



4d in **General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR** 1 1

**Will the Board be replying to any of the concerns raised here?**



4d 1

I'd like to know the answer to this question as well please.

Reply...



6d in **General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR** 4 2

**I'm done!**

After listening patiently & calmly last night as the condescending "Fred" spoke of grand glass sitting areas, bigger better building, extra curricular activities (my kids will be getting on a bus) so that's no bonus to St.Paul area kids? ) I realized the people making the decisions don't live in my area they have no idea that in the last 6mths (check the Realestate stats) young families have moved in their is a reason they move to this area because of the school community. Someone spoke of condos/buildings/Townhouses don't bring in

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"Catholic students"? Not sure what that means? If you don't have money to buy a 4bedroom house in south Burlington your not Catholic? Plus you are proposing opposite by sending our children to the most populated area in Burlington with Buildings and Condos? I also would like to touch base on how one trustee told a group that "South Burlington has been spoilt for far too long" ? Why because we don't have crammed schools and our kids get to walk ride bikes? This is not the type of things I want to hear from someone who works for ME! Remeber our tax dollars pay your salaries...is this the talk around the water cooler how us South Burlingtons are spoilt? In the end I decided that when it comes down to it my faith in our Catholic school board is over but my faith will continue through my teachings at home and through our parish but my money will now go public! And by the way I invite all trustees to get on a school bus at 7:30 on a weekday and do a pre-run of the proposed 16min school bus run for our kids (LAUGHABLE)!



6d 3

I hope someone will share the name of that trustee... although I can hazard a guess. I don't honestly even know what that means. I'd like to ask them. If we are so spoilt then I guess we don't need these fancy new schools.

6d 2

I certainly didn't feel spoilt when I had to put my son on a bus to North Burlington to attend the ONLY Catholic school in Burlington offering French Immersion.



4d 2

agreed. The comment about being spoiled is because what we have here in South Burlington is GREAT!!!! So excellent idea... let's take that away and give us what you Northerners are so wishing you had.

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4d ❤️ 1

\*\*should read. Let's take away the things you Northerners are so wishing you had.

Reply...



5d in General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR 🗨️ 3 ❤️ 2

## More opportunities and resources?

I would like to speak to the point made by the Halton Catholic District school Board that a larger school means more staff and resources for our children which in turn means more extracurricular activities and opportunities

First off. Teachers are not mandated or required to sign up or run extracurricular activities. So it does not matter how many teachers there are in the school it matters how many choose to run activities. If a large school has 40 teachers but only 2 are participating in extracurriculars, and a smaller school has 10 teachers and 8 of them are participating in extracurriculars then which school is providing more opportunities for students?

In addition to that by busing an entire population of the school, which you would be doing with St. Paul's students bussed to St. John's, you are limiting the ability for many if not all of the students to participate in any extracurricular activities after school. As they would have to adhere to strict bus schedules.

St. Paul's community has very active teacher involvement in extracurriculars as well as a very active parent volunteer community which means our children

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have an abundant amount of opportunity to be involved in activities in and outside the school hours. I find it interesting to note that The Council chair of St. John's was recently quoted in our local newspaper as saying that they had a limited number of volunteers, implying that St. John's struggles to provide the same services to their children. Will new St. John staff be hired by the board at St. John's, will there be new parents there that are willing to volunteer? If not how can you make the claim that they will be more opportunities there? Unless you're relying on the very active St. Paul community to pick up the slack.



5d ❤️ 2

Very good points about resources. I also know from parents at other boards, larger schools don't necessarily mean more opportunities for children. It also means more competition. Whether the school is 250 or 500, there is still one basketball team. Just more children trying out for the same number of spaces.



5d ❤️ 1

I really don't know why [redacted], our Council Chair, said what he did. We have a very active volunteer community at St. John's. I defy any other school in Burlington to put on an event like our Pasta Night which requires literally hundreds of volunteer hours. It is accomplished by a large group of volunteers which is pretty amazing given the size of the school. Many parents volunteer in many different capacities at the school but I'm not going to belabour the point.



4d

It's great to hear about your volunteers at St. John's. We at St. Paul have also hosted annual pasta nights in the past and I'm well aware of the volunteer hours and manpower required. Of course I am not at St. John

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school so I can only base my assumptions on the words of its parents which is why I made the comment which I did based on the post quote. I meant absolutely no disrespect to the St. John's community

Reply...



5d in General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR 58

### Get your facts straight...

Hey St Paul parents, I understand that you don't want your small, close knit school to be shut down as we also have a small, close knit school that we would hate to see shut down. However, let's not make outrageous claims in the Burlington Post about the St. John school and community that you have yet to be part of.

Where are your stats that show the number of St John students hit by cars vs St Paul students? Our students don't wander and play in the streets. The entire playground is fenced in and is very safe. You could argue that cumberland is quite a busy street and not to mention New Street. So tell me how is St. John the dangerous school?

As for the car dealership next door, it's actually an added benefit, the auto-shop class has been great at St. John. My child has learned to do a oil-change by Grade 4... this has saved me hundreds of dollars! Please note the sarcasm, but I get frustrated when I see the headline in the Post made by a St Paul parent "They are sacrificing our children's safety". This is a completely ignorant claim.

Don't get me wrong, I get it. St. John parents love their

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school just as much as St. Paul parents and we would fight just as hard as you to save our school. But let's try and keep to the facts and stop the outrageous claims made with no proof!

Declining enrollment in South Burlington is a fact and is happening in most of the GTA. Blame the Bank of Canada and the unaffordable housing for young families.



5d 3

No one is debating the fact that St. Johns is wonderful school , what some of us beleive is that its not a safe environment to house twice the amount of students on such a small property. The word safe has many meanings. Yes i do beleive that a crowded school yard is unsafe . Conjested hallways and stair wells are unsafe, being surrounded by high rise buildings is unsafe , pollutants are unsafe, school busses also present safety issues in such volume that is being proposed Portables are much less safe compared to bricks and mortar and most importantly being a number in a large school compared to being a name and a face in a smaller is also unsafe on so many levels .. so yes the list of how childrens safety is at risk can go on much further in detail but I do beleive that any parent and educator can understand how displacing communities and children is UNSAFE! and yes those are sacfices a community is forced to make should this proposal go through.

5d 2

There are solutions to increase enrolment btw and st pauls is 80% capacity



5d 2

Absolutely...they have narrowmindedly only considered one option which has a lot of flaws

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St. John's

Next time your quoted in the Burlington Post, you may want to clarify your definition of unsafe.

How is it more unsafe than the likelihood of young kids being potentially exposed to smoking and drugs from the high school? This is just as outrageous a claim as the ones you made in the Post.

Are there no pollutants or high rises or a mall near St Pauls? Gimme a break on that argument.

If they were not planning to renovate and make St. John's larger then I would agree with your argument about crowded schools. The fact is one of the schools is closing within the next 5 or 6 years and then we will be really screwed as the kids will be in a facility not built to house that many students.



5d ❤️ 3

Why are we fighting with each other and not the School Board?



5d ❤️ 2

Our fight is not with each other and our school communities, it is with the board and the need to slow down, review and consider options.



5d ❤️ 3

also found it interesting in the article [redacted] the st . john chair of council said ST . johns is lacking volunteers. That speaks volumes as to comparing communities. At St Pauls we have an abundance!! I suppose in the event that this ludacis proposal goes through st pauls will have to pick up the slack!!!



5d ❤️ 2

Let just clarify...St.Johns is not getting a rebuild its getting a small addition and a big glass front foyer! So when it's not like after consolidated its gonna have room for too many more?



5d ❤️ 1

were not fighting, but rather clarifying facts. this is a discussion forum. and this conversation was started by someone telling us that our safety concerns are invalid



5d

[redacted] comment was untrue and unfounded. You are the second person to comment about SP parents picking up the slack. What kind of a response do you expect from SJ parents when you make a comment like that.



5d ❤️ 1

that is in reference to the chairs comment saying they doint have enough volunteers, im sure our community would be more than willing to jump in

5d ❤️ 1

the proposal says 4-6 new rooms ( possibly 4 or 5 or 6 i suppose ) 2 of those classes are for kindergarden, that only leave possibly 2 or 3 we currently have 12 classes ... so where do the rest go??? unsafe portables ??



5d

Your safety concerns about St. John are invalid and offensive.




5d ❤️ 1


Tickets are now on sale for our 25th+ annual Pasta Night. The event will blow your mind away. It is only made possible by literally hundreds of volunteer hours all by a large group of about 30 dedicated parents. Feel free to buy a ticket and get an appreciation for the work our volunteers do.


5d


[redacted] doesn't speak for all of us just like I'm sure not


all your parents think our kids are playing in traffic.



 5d  
I'll take 7.


 5d  
Seriously. Our community is affected too and it doesn't help to be slammed by yours. Take your anger out on the school board, not us. We didn't ask for this either.


 5d  
please forgive me but when someone questions my concerns as a parent i feel like i have to explain my self . i realize not one speaks for all. . when i speak it is of my own opinion. its difficult dissapointing and frustrating not knowing what the future holds for all of us,, Hopefully at the end everyone can sleep well knowing the right decisions have been made for the right reasons

 5d  
Shankly6 – for you \$15 apiece.


 5d  
This is getting childish and offensive...I was hoping St.Johns parents were in it with us! Very disappointing! Maybe public is the way to go if this is how good Christians act!


 5d  1  
i never said your children were playing in traffic , but i assure you whatever they are playing in will be significantly smaller with an additional 270 students and an expansion... lets take this frustration and work together . my rplies are addressed as validating my safety concerns.


 No kidding. But The insulting comments started with SP parents. We are on the defensive.


 5d  
actually perhaps you didnt read far enough . my reply started to the parent who said it was rediculous to say our childrens safety is at risk.. and when i say OUR i mean yours and mine


5d  
it affects st johns as much as us. every safety issue i have raised affects everyone

5d  1  
as for the volunteering that was from the chair at st johns not me

 5d  
Which was published to the entire Burlington community. Base your arguments on facts and not conjecture; have numbers to back it up. St. John has been a wonderful school to generations of kids. Safety may be an issue within the school so detailed plans should be addressed by the board. As for saying, that the location is unsafe then I take issue with that.

 5d  
it is only unsafe with wtice as many kids

5d  1  
you guys need a new chair

 5d  
I read a number of comments earlier this afternoon that made me feel SP parents were attacking St. John's. Not the least of which was the suggestion they needed to come pick up the slack. Don't take this out on us.

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i beleive you arent understanding the reply, it was a direct comment to your chair. who welcomes all the changes

5d

we need to keep on them.. the only option they have proposed isnt a good one.



I guess a lot of people don't understand your reply based upon your direct quotes in the post.



He is one person and that comment is erroneous. Twice the comment has been made about SP parents picking up the slack. I replied to the comment earlier today saying that it was wrong (the Post hadn't even hit my doorstep yet). I don't know why there is so much focus on that one comment with so many other issues at hand.



i guess not . and i guess i dont understand why my concerns are being questioned. the fact is we need to stick together to show them how this wont work. its the children that matter here and sometimes feeling like we have to defend and advocate for them gets all of us a little frustrated



agreed

5d

Maybe we can agree to move on from the volunteer and safety issues?



i think the focus was on that comment because in the proposal Tim Overholt said the children would be gaining

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extra programs extra curriculums.. the St. Pauls parents were trying to understand how will the children be gaining programs if there are no volunteers to run them.. a question to the board and their proposal not directly to parents

5d

absolutely, it was never directed to the parents that take time out of the chaos of everyday life to help the school.

5d

i hope whatever they decide is with everyone's best interest in mind.



Well as I think I said earlier there is a lot of smoke and mirrors!



for sure.



I think the issue of whether or not there would be extracurriculars is not clear cut. My son attended St. Gabe's which is a very large school and mostly bussed. They did run a lot of extracurriculars and did a lot over the lunch hour, possibly to accommodate for the bus schedules?



well should it happen i suppose those that follow will have to make the best of it  
but i do believe keeping our schools is the best option for our children and our communities



i think the argument the Board is trying to make is more teachers/staff = more people to run extra curriculums. therefore more extra curriculums and I do

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think that is often the case. But the Board simply can't guarantee it because they can't force the teachers to run the activities. At the end of the day it depends on the willingness of the staff. With or without parent volunteers, most activities can't be run without at least a teacher being present. It's just one of the ways the Board is trying to sell this proposal to us but, there are no guarantees and personally I think there are valid arguments on both sides of the debate as to whether or not extra curricular activity would increase.

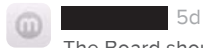


5d

i agree more teachers doesnt equal more activities unless they want to participate..

5d

so there are no guarantees,sadly



5d

The Board should offer French Immersion and gifted programming in South Burlington schools. This is something they can more easily promise (has to be sufficient interest but I'm sure there would be, especially for FI). That would truly be an increase in "programs" and would help reverse the declining enrolment while giving more kids access to those programs; kids who aren't accessing them right now because they don't want to be bussed to North Burlington. But they have narrow mindedely looked at one option because the Ministry is dangling a carrot in front of them.



5d

absolutely , there are so many ways to draw enrolments to south burlington.  
the demand for french immersion is on the rise

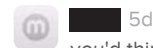
5d

its always about someones pocket!



5d

We may not be able to avoid some closures but I think closing 3 schools is overly aggressive and an 8 km void of Catholic elementary education in South Burlington is shameful. It's so hypocritical of a Board that recently asked us to fight for Catholic education!! It feels like they are being lured by the Ministry to do their dirty work for them. I know that's a little "conspiracy theory" but I don't know...



5d

you'd think using the \$\$ to directly benefit the children would be top priority

5d

then again what do us "stakeholders" know

5d

yes !!!! there are other motives that we aren't aware of ..



5d

I don't think they have a choice as to how they use the money; that's the problem. I believe school closures are part of the criteria...but again 3 closures resulting in such a large void and taking two schools away from their parishes...doesn't make sense



5d



1

Well , i appreciate your thoughts, and am happy to see passionate parents out there. Lets pray their motives dont negatively impact our children. goodnight



5d



2

It's a shame there aren't more passionate parents, whether they agree or not. Board is able to push this through because there is too much complacency. Let's keep encouraging more parents to get involved. Good

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keep encouraging more parents to get involved. Good Night!



4d ❤️ 4

I assumed the safety of our children was implied due to the fact that they are doubling the numbers on St. John's lot size, not just because it's located on Brant St. Safety does become a concern when a parking lot already has trouble accommodating its current students and then you're talking of doubling those students. I'm sure St. John's is a wonderful school with a wonderful staff and partly if not mostly that is because it is a small school. Just like St. Paul's I'm sure it has many wonderful connections with its students and staff because it is a small school and can do so. But the reality is when the school has almost 570 students, which will put it beyond capacity right away even after the additions which is why the portables will be required. Things are going to change. But The gym size is not changing, the washrooms are not changing, all that's IS changing in the new school is the addition of two kindergarten classrooms, up to four Additional other classrooms , some glass hallways, 2 portables and 270 more students. But for St. Paul students everything changes.



4d ❤️ 3

Agree with all of the above.

Reply...



7d in General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR 💬 3 ❤️ 1

**completely appaled**

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Where is the priority of this proposal.. not once during the presentation last night were the children even mentioned. There has been no discussion or facts provided on how this is directly going to affect them. What makes absolute no sense to me is why is the enrolment numbers being based on kindergarden class numbers.. I am certain that everyone is aware that kindergarden is optional and that numbers may be low because parents simply dont want their children in full day kindergarden. they choose other preschool options until grade one.. What we have at our school/community cannot be measured in any dollar amount.. put education first. fact is student acheive and are successful in smaller schools. st paul students are getting no added benefit by going to st johns. in fact they are taking away from what we already have .many of us will be trading bricks and mortar for portables, and play yard will be much less than half. forcing us to take a school bus will only force us into the pulbic schools.. if its not broken dont fix it.. They are destroying the viability of our community and the stability of our children for no absolute reason. St Paul school is 80 % full.. there is no need to close it. LEAVE US ALONE!!!

7d ❤️ 3

demographic will change, families are coming into to these communities and then there wont be any catholic schools to go to .

This in turn will make numbers go up in public schools which makes me question their motives behind this whole thing ! Perhaps the Catholic board has no real loyalty to religion at all.



4d

It's all about \$\$\$\$ and they don't care to see the bigger picture. A large majority of St Paul parents have already indicated they will switch to the public system should this proposal go through. some even saving

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means the proposal is a sign, come over saying they can't trust the Board anymore so whether they stay at St John or not they will choose to fund the Public Sector Schools. In the end numbers will only further decline bc once the neighbourhood around St Paul revitalizes itself with young families moving in as the older population in South Burlington goes to assisted living or dies off, they will most likely look to enroll their children in schools within walking distance (Public being the only ones avail) as new members of this community.

4d ❤️ 1

on the flip side, anyone disagrees and says that's not the case that people will bus their kids to a catholic school, then we will find ourselves in the same situation as many of the Public Sector schools that amalgamated and are now overrun with portables. The biggest issue being that St John site has no space to house these portables!!!! The fact is the community around St Paul School will and already IS turning over with many young families moving in.

Reply...



5d in **General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR** 5 ❤️ 1

## What is a "21st century school", really?

Can someone, from the School Board, please clarify what is meant by a "21st Century School"? I think some parents are expecting a school with all the latest technology built right in and ready to go but in the Southeast parking lot questions, there was a question about whether the new school would get "new IT

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equipment, science equipment, music supplies, etc., in the new facility?" The reply was "All existing computer equipment, science equipment, music supplies, etc., that schools currently own would move to the new location. The new school community would upgrade their technology over time". To me this means that having a new school will not make any difference as to the availability of technology beyond what would otherwise be available. Does "21st Century School just mean a building that is built to modern standards? (ie. current building code, accessibility requirements, energy efficiency, etc.,).

5d ❤️ 1

How will a 21st Century school directly impact and benefit our childrens' educational experiences? Would the St. John reno include any updates to the existing facility, or just within the new addition? School Board, please answer.



5d ❤️ 2

The funny thing that I read in their answers about school design was that they have plans they use from the '90s.



4d ❤️ 1

from their responses we are not gaining any new technology. We will have exactly what we do now. But we WILL have a beautiful glass entrance and a courtyard for the kids to sit around in, oh and don't let me forget the portables, or the fact that they will be crammed in like sardines. They are considering the upgrade to the bricks and mortar as the 21st Century school which has absolutely no positive effect on our children's actual education.



1 4d ❤️ 1

Yeah I read that about the 90s too; thought that was funny

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4d ❤️ 2

I think they are using the term "21st Century building" to create an illusion. People hear "21st century" when speaking of education, they think "21st century learning" which is all about technology...smoke and mirrors

Reply...



5d in General Discussion - Burlington  
Southwest PAR 13 ❤️ 2

## Taking an easy way out!

The approach at the meeting was all wrong. I also didn't like Fred's attitude. I found him out of touch with the community. They are trying to sell us a shiny new build instead of thinking outside the box and trying to increase enrollment. I've also heard the the Niagara community is approaching declining enrollment in a different way. They are reaching out to community groups to see how they can fill their school in other ways through creative partnerships. I get that it comes down to money but why isn't the board looking at alternatives FIRST before uprooting 200 plus children. Plus what if they are WRONG! We will end up with portables for years! Even Fred himself showed me they will be just above capacity with the addition! They are taking the easy way out in my opinion.



5d

You have echoed my frustration. I get that they have to deal with declining enrolment but they haven't been very creative or dynamic in coming up with more innovative solutions. Ironically, our Director is from the

Niagara region. 😊



5d

The probability of one of these schools closing in 5 or 6 years is very high. So although I don't agree with how the changes are coming about, I think it's important that the board gets ahead of it and creates top notch elementary schools with funding from the Ministry. Otherwise, we'll have 250 new students being bused to a facility that can in no way handle that capacity.



5d

I'm not seeing top notch in the proposed plan? What was outlined in the meeting was we would be getting an addition of 4 classrooms and if there was spill over they would be put in portables? Oh...but there was talk of a glass front and sitting area? Not sure that fits my idea of top notch school?



5d

Smoke and mirrors



5d

They say they are going to bring the school into the 21st century. It would be good to see some money spent in South Burlington schools for a change rather than North Burlington schools. Does St Paul have smart boards in every class and iPads for the kids?



5d

Yes we do!

5d

Plus every extra curricular you could want...but now all the talk of extra won't go to St. Paul students cause they will be getting on a bus?!?



5d

So does St. John. As for the argument of busing stops

kids from extracurricular activities, I don't necessarily agree. How is that different then any other extracurricular activity that they do outside school that starts at 4 or 5pm?



My kids won't be home by 4 now so I'm not sure! THEY'LL BE ON A BUS!



If kids are getting home later due to a school bus ride, everything is pushed back or non existant, if there's an afterschool activity they'll miss that too since they have to get on a bus.



What do the kids up at Kilbride or other schools in rural areas do that get bussed for longer? I was bussed as a child and still managed to make and participate in extracurricular activities. It can be done and has been done for decades...



Why are you so angry? We are all in the same situation take a breath and remeber this is about our kids...I don't want my kids to take a bus. I bought my house in the area for that reason so don't give me it's been done for decades condescending junk!



I'm not angry but annoyed by the small minded comments published in the Burlington Post. I love my kids school; I'm proud of my kids school; and if it does go through we will welcome all St. Paul students and parents with open arms. BUT in the meantime, please show St. John school, teachers, parents, and students some respect!

Reply...



HCDSB-PAR Admin 7w in **General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR** 9

## School Uniform Questions

Some have asked questions about school uniforms. If this proposal is approved and we move ahead with the consolidation of St. Paul and St. John, we would look at a number of factors to ease transition, including the school uniform.

We understand that buying uniforms is costly, and we will find ways to support families through the transition period. This would include phasing in the new uniform by allowing students to continue to wear their old uniform top (the pants are identical in all elementary schools) until the child outgrows it, and until new uniform pieces can be acquired over time. Any consolidation of schools with uniforms would allow for a 1-2 year transition period.



This doesn't help those families with multiple children at the school. If I have one child in Grade 5 and one in JK, a uniform would be put into a closet for the next 5-6 years until the younger one can fit into it. If you are only allowing a 1-2 year grace period you are not alleviating any financial expense of having to purchase brand new uniforms when there is a perfectly good one sitting in the closet at home.



This also segregates the children and does not created a unity which is the sole purpose of uniforms!

25d

16/03/2016

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~create



7d 2

1-2 years is not enough; some kids can wear shirts for longer and sweaters in particular if you buy them a little bigger, can definitely last a few years, which makes sense to do as they are VERY expensive... especially if child wears adult size... Students should be allowed to wear their current uniforms until they outgrow them, it is that simple. Unless, the Board wants to use all the cost savings to provide new uniforms to all the affected students.



5d

If the schools are consolidated, could a crest for the future name of the consolidated school be made large enough to cover both the St Paul and St John logos and then sewn on top of the existing embroidered logo? I know logos in this board are embroidered, but maybe in this situation an exception could be made; allowing all students to have have same logo and, therefore, being united as one school community instead of feeling as though two communities are together in one school? Perhaps these should be available only for the first year, but allowed to be used by families until the family has outgrown the uniform so their older children as well as their younger children can wear them. Also, perhaps funds could be raised for this during the transition year as part of a community building event.



1 5d 1

You have echoed my frustration. I get that they have to deal with declining enrolment but they haven't been very creative or dynamic in coming up with more innovate solutions. Ironically, our Director is from the Niagara region. 😊

5d

<https://muut.com/burlington-southwest-mpar>

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16/03/2016

All posts | Halton Catholic MPAR

Oops posted under wrong thread and not sure how to remove



5d 1

I would think FREE crests would be available to cover the existing ones. As a bonus they should offer a swap for used pieces so I can rid of all of mine b/c my 3 kids are headed to Ryerson where they won't be needed



5d 2

Absolutely Board should absorb any additional costs to do with changes to uniform. Not a question in my mind.

Reply...



7d in **General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR** 2 2

## Other viable options not considered and too easily dismissed

I see from parking lot questions for Southeast "consultation" meeting; Board was asked about offering French Immersion in South Burlington to increase enrollment and response given was that French Immersion was offered at Ascension during the 2006-2007 school year and the school could not sustain the student enrolment numbers to maintain the program.....come on....that was 10 years ago....for one school year?...at a time when transportation was not provided....are these the same type of analytical skills that were applied to this review as a whole?

Demand for French Immersion has increased

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tremendously in the last five years with both St. Gabriel (late entry FI) and Sacred Heart of Jesus (early entry FI) offering two classes per academic year. So much so that St. Gabriel's is bursting at the seams with three portables on their site! The Board's response to this question is shameful and misleading. French Immersion and other targeted programs which are currently offered in North Burlington only (ie. self-contained gifted classes) are an excellent and very viable option to avoiding declining enrollment in South Burlington. Not only that, these programs would become accessible to more students who are currently not enrolling because of the travel time and/or separation from siblings. As well, some Catholic families are already choosing public schools because these programs are much more readily accessible in the public board. Offering these programs in South Burlington will most definitely have a positive impact on enrolment levels, possibly avoiding the need for school closures and amalgamations. Please give serious consideration to this!!!



7d 2

i beleive offering the FI program would draw some of the public students are way too. truthfully there are so many options that can be used to draw our numbers up., but they apparently have no interest in a lets fix it approach.

really great lesson to teach our impressionable children . asking us to sacrifice our childrens education for a poosibility that the enrolment will decline. there stats are wrong ! assisted living is going up . new families are coming in . they need to give it time . we aew 80% full why close a school that is funtioning well ??? it makes no sense



5d

Just this past weekend in the globe and mail re French immersion in Burlington! Clearly there is

French immersion in Burlington! Clearly there is demand for it! [www.theglobeandmail.com/.../article29031082](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/.../article29031082)

Reply...



7d in **General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR** 5 3

## Questioning the strength of our math programs...

Its been stated that 266 children will move from St. Paul to St. John and that 6 new classrooms will be built...that is average of almost 45 students per class (I don't believe there are currently any empty classrooms...other than the stage...please tell me we are not consolidating schools and building major renovations just to use the stage as a classroom again...

this is well beyond ministry caps for class size and class sizes are already quite large at SJ this year (34 students in grade 6 class) as an alternative to split classes (which I prefer...)

either the Board is pulling the wool over our eyes or they have seriously lacking math skills...which causes me great concern about what our children are learning in math class...



6d

pretty sure they are using the same math skills to calculate the bus ride time to school in the morning...14 mins really?



6d

Don't forget 2 of those classrooms will be kindergarten

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rooms as well. And the original proposal says 4-6 classrooms. So will there be 6 for sure?



5d

I spoke to Overholt and Dawson after the meeting to confirm because I thought 2 of the 6 were going to be portables and was concerned they had left that out of the presentation. They said that was the original plan but the most recent proposal was 6 with 2 being kindergarten. But afterwards I also realized that are supposed to be "flexible" classrooms, whatever that means. So I don't think they would house classes permanently...in my mind that takes us back to 4 which makes the math even crazier

5d

Also...I'm just realizing this now but...if you have 4 kindergarten classes every year...that's about 100 kids each year...wouldn't you eventually have 1000 kids at the school? or empty kindergarten classrooms? is something wrong with my math???? I just don't get it...

5d 1

Ignore previous comment. Just realized those 4 kindergarten classes would include both JK and SK so not 100 per grade year.

Reply...



6d in **General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR** 2 2

**Why can't they see the obvious?**

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All posts | Halton Catholic MPAR

I know this is far from an original observation but I think it bears repeating...why would our Board propose a plan that creates an 8 km void of Catholic elementary education? Aren't the consequences of this obvious?



5d

I agree, the consequences are obvious and they are being ignored. The presentation and information fails to address negative implications.



5d 1

If you look at the answers to Southeast parking lot questions, someone asked what are they willing to do about losing students to the public schools. They say they are hoping families will choose to stay. They are either being dangerously naïve or are just trying to avoid the question. This is a very real issue and threatens the very existence of Catholic education in South Burlington. It is a shame.

Reply...



6d in **General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR** 1

**LOT SIZE COMPARISONS SKEWED**

did also want to point out one more thing that I noticed in last night's meeting. Aside from the claims of a 14 minute bus ride, and a maximum distance of 4 km to the new school which are already not accurate. I and many parents were so angry by their lot size comparisons.

They had in that booklet that St. John's lot size is 1.9

acres, but 1.9 acres is not the same as the lot size of the new school.

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acres but if you add in the adjacent park owned by the diocese that kids can use it's more like USUABLE 3.9 acres. They claim they spoke with the diocese to gain permission for the children to use that green space and intern included in their 'pink shaded area' of usable space in the lot size.

But St. Pauls lot size of 4.7 acres was reduced by removing our piece of fitness track that overlaps our lot and is shared with the high school. and then said our USABLE lot size is only closer to 2.97. If they can approach the diocese and asked for permission to use their green space why then would they not have approached or could not approach the high school and ask the same permission? Even though our children use this space every day at recess after school etc. already.

In reality if they included the 'entire' track they would probably be tripling our lot size.

I found this to be a very deceptive.

Of course the adjacent Parkland was not even considered in that lot comparison. When I asked about the possibility of purchasing that land as well and that I had heard that the city would be open to it. I wasn't receiving receptive responses.

Reply...



7d in General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR 2 1

## St. John's playspace

Proposal aims to almost double the population of St. John's school while simultaneously decreasing the playground area.....on a lot size that is already less than

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half the ideal size as stated by the Board themselves. Explain that logic??



7d 1

There is no logic in any of this. The proposal for the development site is clearly less than half the recommended criteria.. that should be illegal!!!

7d 2

Also if St. Pauls isn't suitable for a permanent build ( even though its twice as big as St. John's) then why is it suitable temporarily and what sacrifices does that come with. ( safety and space) for our children.

Reply...



8d in General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR 1 4

## Disappointment – no other words

It is truly sad that the Board of Trustees has decided to put dollars before kids.

There are no benefits for the kids...only the board.

The process that has been undertaken is flawed and is being used to benefit the board. They are hiding behind the process.

My tax dollars, whether I keep my children enrolled in the Catholic board or not, will now go to the public board. I can't trust those who are making decisions. Clearly they do not have the children, the community or the parents in mind.



7d

Do you really think the public board is any better? They

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Do you really think the public board is any better? They are all the same...

Reply...



7d in General Discussion - Burlington  
Southwest PAR 1

## How do I post a reply??

Trying to post a reply and can't seem to type in the Reply box...this is not a very user friendly forum...kind of like this whole process!

7d

Is there a help function anywhere?

Reply...



11d in General Discussion - Burlington  
Southwest PAR 1

## Discussion?

Not a lot of discussing seems to go on here ...



9d 3

Its hard to have a one sided discussion, problem is there are no replies to our concerns, it seems we've been given an outlet for discussion to appease us. this whole process has been very dissapointing.

Reply...

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9d in General Discussion - Burlington  
Southwest PAR 3

## Vote NO!!!



17d in General Discussion - Burlington  
Southwest PAR 1 2

## 21st Century Learning

I currently teach at St John and I am very concerned both by the 'transition year' proposal and the aftermath. We currently have a very technology-oriented program in grades 6-8. If we are to be at St Paul's for a year, we will (presumably) be bringing our tech with us. What upgrades to the St Paul system will be made to accommodate doubling the load on both wifi and the computer system in general?

Related to this, we have a number of special needs students at all grade levels who rely heavily on wifi access. Presumably we new migrants will be in portables for a year at St Paul ... will there be wifi access in the portables at all? Will there be wifi of sufficient strength for a class of 25+ to all access Office 365 at the same time?

17d 2

... and when we return, will there be an upgrade to our current server and an increase in bandwidth from our ISP to deal with the doubling of the school population and the increased demands for internet access? It's pretty close to capacity already ...

Reply...

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18d in General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR ❤️ 1

## Article in the Burlington Post tonight.

🔗 20160226\_203740 Saving money, Technology and Capital funding at the expense of our childrens health. Needlessly busing 266 students. Tsk Tsk!

Reply...



HCDSB-PAR Admin 7w in General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR 💬 3

## Rules of Conduct for Online Forums

From time to time, we may establish online forums to encourage parents, staff and members of our community to share their comments and ask questions on a particular matter. For more information, please visit our [Social Media Guidelines](#).

**Appropriate Language:** Please avoid personal attacks, slurs, and profanity in your activities on the forum.

**Confidentiality:** Please do not post anything on the forum that you do not want the world to see. You should not post personally identifiable information (such as your child's name, address, telephone number, etc.), or other confidential information.

### Basic Rules:

- **Please treat all other participants in the forum with respect.** Do not use the forum to threaten, harass, demean or insult other users. Remember that other participants are members of your community.

- Do not use the forum to spam others. Spam includes sending identical and irrelevant or unsolicited submissions to many different users, and includes misrepresenting the source of anything you post.
- Do not use the forum to link to external sites that violate these Rules of Conduct.
- Information posted may be collected for the sole purpose of informing the Halton Catholic District School Board and its staff on a particular decision or matter.
- Any personal information will not be shared in any public reports or documents.

**Please be advised that our Board has the right to remove and/or report any of the following:**

- Comments/posts that do not comply with our mission, vision, and values.
- Comments/posts that violate the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- Comments/posts that are confidential in nature or offer personal and/or financial information.
- Comments/posts that are derogatory, abusive, demeaning, slanderous, hateful, discriminatory and/or racist or in any way insinuate cyber bullying.
- Spam, solicitations or advertisements.
- Any comments/posts that suggest illegal behaviour.

**Please review the above information before participating in any online interactions.**



7w

Will the current classes stay the same going to St John's or will it be a combination of St Paul's and St John's classes thereby separating current friendships!



HCDSB-PAR Admin 7w ❤️ 2

For the Burlington Southwest of QEW review, it was recommended to re-direct St. Paul students and all existing programs to St. John (Burlington) School



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existing programs to St. John (Burlington) school, which would include a newly constructed addition to the school. The re-direct would allow students to build and maintain new friendships in a newly updated facility!



25d ❤️ 2

Building and maintaining new friendships is lovely but it is not a direct need nor something that the children are lacking in their current schools. In fact uprooting them comes with many risks first and foremost their stability and education.. You have stated in your own research provided in January the numerous reasons why amalgamation does not work.

Reply...



25d in St. Paul Catholic Elementary School ❤️ 4

## What is a Church without Children?

What is a church without children? As I was sitting in Sunday mass at St. Raphael's Roman Catholic Church this past Sunday, I was looking around at all the families and children, and trying to picture the parish without any young families. Attending St. Raphael's for my entire 40 years, I never thought I would have to consider such a foreign concept. However, in light of the recent Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews (for the Halton Catholic District School Board), this is a possibility. St. Raphael's may lose both elementary schools, if St. Paul and St. Raphael are closed. What will happen to the youth ministry? Will we no longer celebrate reconciliation and first communion? What are the implications to the parish if the students and their

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the implications to the parish, and students and their families become part of St. John or St. Patrick parish communities?

As a parent of a JK student at St. Paul school, I am concerned about our parish community. One of the main reasons we chose to move to south Burlington, and send our student to St. Paul, was to remain part of the broader St. Raphael community. The Modified Pupil Accommodation Review explains that the children of St. Paul will remain with their classmates during renovations and the move to St. John. Sure, they may stay together at school but what are you doing to the children of St. Paul and St. Raphael who share the same parish? What are you doing to the parish?

I realize public consultation is set to occur at a specific time in the review. I am also clear that the modified review does not require the establishment of an Accommodation Review Committee. In my opinion, it is very disappointing that students and representatives from the broader community and staff resources are eliminated. This is contradictory to the mission and values of the Halton Catholic District School Board, which emphasize the partnership between school, home and Church.

If we are to rely on the Board of Trustees to make the final decision, then the community and key stakeholders should at least be provided with several possible solutions, to provide input. I read the review with an open mind, acknowledging the many aspects of increasing costs and declining enrolment rates. However, instead of feeling part of the process, we were presented with one option: the amalgamation of 5 elementary schools in Burlington, resulting in 3 school closures.

Was there any consideration to keep some elementary children connected to St. Raphael parish? Was the option of consolidating St. Paul and St. Raphael

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schools, to support St. Raphael's church even considered? I don't know because the only possible solution that I read is that St. Paul children will go to St. John school (and St. Raphael children will go to Ascension). The review even acknowledges some of the issues with the downtown location of St. John school. It's listed as an undersized lot, but doubling the school enrollment is still apparently the best option.

Although I keep reading that "no determination has been made", I'm also not sure how a one hour meeting in March will be an opportunity for public consultation. How will our voices be heard in a one hour session? The timelines are very tight. If approved, it appears that the schools could be consolidated very quickly. Major implications such as challenges with larger school communities, job loss for teaching staff and support staff, and declining church communities (only to name a few), are a reality. I feel like we will all look back in a few years and say "how did this happen again?"

I have lived most of my life in Burlington. I am proud to be part of a city that is comprised of many smaller communities. For our family, southwest Burlington is home. St. Paul is home and St. Raphael is home. My hope is that the families, the Churches and the communities that make Burlington what it is, will be taken into consideration. We need more options.

Parent, St. Paul Elementary School

Reply...



HCDSB-PAR Admin 7w in **St. Paul Catholic Elementary School** 27

**Burlington Southwest QEW**

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## Burlington Southwest QEW Pupil Accommodation Review (St. Paul)

On January 19, 2016, the Board approved the initiation of the Burlington Southwest QEW Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR), as it relates to the following schools:

**St. John (Burlington) Catholic Elementary School**  
**St. Paul Catholic Elementary School**

For more information about the PAR process, please visit our website: ([bit.ly/BurlingtonSouthwest-PAR](http://bit.ly/BurlingtonSouthwest-PAR))

Parents and members of the community can share their opinions and provide their comments below, and are also welcome to attend the **Community Consultation Meeting**, which will take place on: Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at Assumption Catholic Secondary School, at 7:00 p.m.

[Register for the Consultation Meeting here:] ([survey.hcdsb.org/2016MPAR.aspx](https://survey.hcdsb.org/2016MPAR.aspx))



7w

If the boards SCC business cases must be submitted by Feb 29th and trustees must make approval by March 28th why isn't the public meeting being held sooner than March 8th? Doesn't seem like we are being given much time to express our concerns, unless a decision has already been made and this is just a public forum to appease us.



7w 1

This will definitely limit the accessibility of Catholic schools in the area. If it was proposed that St Raphael's would stay open it could be different. We live just west of Walkers line and I would not be happy for my young kids to travel for up to 60 minutes a day on the bus to get to St John's. If I wasn't committed to my kids going

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to a Catholic school I would just move them to the local public school.



7w

We have 1.4 km to St. Raphael's and I don't want my child to travel that long either just to get to St. John's. I was thinking that they want to close the St. Patrick's and move all the kids to St. Raphael's? Is that correct?



7w  1

I believe that the children from St. Raphael's will be going to Ascension. They are part of the Southeast Review.

7w

St. Pats and St. Raphaels will come together at Ascension. I believe they have recommended they take down Ascension and rebuild. You are under the Southeast review.



HCDSB-PAR Admin 7w

Although the Community Consultation Meetings will be held in March, this online forum is another opportunity for you to share your concerns and feedback. We appreciate your input and all the feedback we receive from this online forum will be shared with Trustees before they reach a decision. Thank you for participating!

7w

For the Burlington Southwest of QEW review, it was recommended to re-direct St. Paul students and all existing programs to St. John (Burlington) School, which would include a newly constructed addition to the school.

The average distance to the proposed St. John (Burlington) School would be well below the 60 minutes travel time. Hope this information helps.

7w

For the Burlington Southeast of QEW review, the recommendation was to re-direct St. Patrick and St. Raphael students to a newly constructed Ascension School, using a 21st Century model.

We appreciate everyone's input and will share it with Trustees before they reach a decision!



7w  5

I have several concerns about the relocation of St. Paul students to St. John's. First, St. John's is located in a fairly congested area of Brant Street. They currently have 29 students arriving by bus. The school currently has NO bus loading zone or parking. These areas are shared with the parish. Moving St. Paul students to St. John's would result in 277 children now needing to be bused. With a combined enrolment of 556 children, just imagine how busy that area will become at 3pm dismissal and morning drop off. It is also being proposed that the St. John students are temporarily relocated to St. Paul during construction. I'd like to know how this will safely be accomplished? 3pm dismissal at St. Paul is already very busy with the school often needing to bring in parking enforcement/security to control traffic. I've seen several children come close to being hit by cars as it is so crowded. Also your report indicates that the St. John site is undersized for the proper expansion of the school. With adjacent areas being occupied by residential and commercial uses, how will this be rectified? I understand the recommendation is no more than 60 minutes of travel time on a bus for elementary students. I find it unacceptable to ask my 4 year old child to sit on a bus for up to two hours a day to get to school. I am assuming she will be on a scheduled bus route with many drop off points and will not be the first one dropped off. That's a long time for a small child to sit.

St.pauls site is much larger than st.johns and is surrounded by parks, green space and is Ina much quieter area of town. Why can it not be considered to relocate st.john students to st.pauls with an update to the facility. I have to agree with a previous poster that this decision seems to be already made and this forum/meeting is just a formality to appease parents.



7w ❤️ 2

If the average time for busing children will be well below the 60 minutes, please can you tell me what the longest travelling time will be? We live on the border of the St Paul's catchment area (near the edge of St Raphael's catchment area) so average times are not going to give us much idea of how long my children would be on the bus. My oldest child has some special educational needs and gets tired easily so being on a school bus for a long time is not practical. St John's also starts at 8.30 am currently. Would this still be the proposed start time as it is would be very early for children having to travel quite far to get there.

7w ❤️ 2

I have quite a few practical concerns with sending my children to St John's if St Paul's is closed but I am also concerned about the future of Catholic education in my area if the proposal goes ahead. I understand there are falling numbers of children generally in my neighbourhood and schools will need to be closed before they become unsustainable. The lack of land and land prices is also a consideration. However if three Catholic elementary schools are closed which are all a few blocks apart this is likely to decrease the numbers of children registering for Catholic schools in these areas.



7w ❤️ 2

Will the St Paul students now be required to have new

St John Uniform Tops? If so, these should be exchanged at no cost to the parents.



7w

I agree 100% about the uniforms! Our first year of uniforms the grade 8's were exempt from wearing them as they only had one year before going to high school. One of my children will be starting jk this year and will need an entire uniform wardrobe. I hope this same courtesy will be given to us as they will only have one year before leaving. Also, will St.John students be required to wear St.Paul uniforms while the school is under construction and they are all moved to St.Paul school? Perhaps is this proposal does go through we can eliminate uniforms for the next school year? But I agree, these should be replaced for us free of charge as these uniforms are very expensive.



6w ❤️ 6

I like many of the parents of the St. Paul School community take issue with many factors in regards to the merging of St. Paul and St. John students. Brant St. is a very busy area of the downtown core. If I wanted my children to attend a school in the downtown core I would have moved there. We recently relocated and stayed in this area because of the wonderful proximity to St. Paul School and the suburban quiet and safe neighborhood it is in. I like many parents I have spoken to I, feel that the plan to have no Catholic elementary school between Brant St. and beyond Appleby line is not only foolish but detrimental to Catholic education and enrollment in the future. In my area alone I have 6 to 7 new families with young children that have recently moved here. I know that if given the choice many of these families would put their children in the public system rather than have their four and five-year-olds take a bus to a downtown school. This is unfortunate and unnecessary. If any plan for merging would be set forth I would think the most logical would

be to merge St Raphael's and St Paul students. The schools are both within close proximity to each other allowing many students who now walk to continue to do so. They are also both active schools in the St Raphael parish community. And St Paul's had plenty of green space for expansion. Lastly with a focus on healthy active children and promoting wellness among our students I find it disappointing that you will Force potentially hundreds of students to bus to school with no option to walk, ride bikes etc. This is counterproductive to the goal of promoting healthy active children. Although I understand the need for productive and financially responsible schools I do not think that this plan is the best course of action to accomplish that. As a parent of four children whose oldest is now in college and who was in the Catholic system from kindergarten to grade 12, and who currently has two sons in St. Paul's in grade 4 and 1, I do not feel that being in a small school environment in anyway compromises their education, if anything it enhances it.



6w ❤️ 2

When looking at the stats in the extremely long winded Pupil Accommodation Review, it does not even look as though student enrolment in St. Paul's is that far down. My daughter was in a classroom of 26 students last year, which is quite a large class size in my opinion.

My husband and I have enjoyed the close knit community of St. Paul's, and feel this would be lost in the overcrowded amalgamation of St. Paul's and St. John's. I have 2 more children entering Catholic Elementary in the future and I do not feel comfortable with them on a busy street like Brant. It makes me very uncomfortable know that St. John's does not have a proper bus loading area, knowing all my small children would be using the bus.

I was educated in the Catholic Separate School System, and I wanted this education for my children as well. If this plan goes through, my family will be forced to look into changing into the Public School system, which is a shame, personally knowing all a Catholic education has to offer. If the Separate School System closes down St. Paul's, why should I continue funding it with my tax money? I will support the Education System that meets my family's needs.



6w ❤️ 4

Thank you for input on 21 century facilities, however , this is the Southwest accommodation review forum. St. Paul's is going to be jammed into St. Johns with a 4-6 classroom addition (port-a-pak?) and 2 portables. Not sure if that speaks to the 21st century or not. We have a great number of extra curricular activities offered at St. Paul's. The teachers do a fantastic job teaching and they want to be part of the extracurricular activities. Our students have all done just fine. We are a community who knows each other and each others children well. This makes us more responsible and accountable for our actions and who we are as people.. At the end of the day state of the art technology is lovely and technology is part of life but it is not the be all to end all. I would rather my children be known and recognized by their teachers and peers and not just another face in the crowd. There is plenty of time for that.



a 6w ❤️ 7

I agree completely! I was blown away to read this reply. Thanks for telling us how awesome the other school is going to be!! Too bad our children will be jammed into a tiny old school. Our children will be at a great loss if St.Paul's current teachers and principal are let go. I have NEVER met a more caring principal than Mrs.Anderson. She knows EVERY one of her students by name. How many other principals can be seen

outside at 3pm in the pouring rain or in -30 degree weather making sure all the children are dismissed safely. She goes above and beyond and it will be a great loss to our students!



HCDSB-PAR Admin 6W

Our apologies for the inadvertent error. The proposed 21st Century learning environment (St. John Catholic Elementary School with a newly constructed addition) highlighted on this page is for the **Burlington Southwest** community:

Thanks to all for sharing your thoughts on the accommodation review. At this time, no decision has been made – your comments will be shared with Trustees before they reach a decision.

Please note that the school facilities under review were evaluated using the Board's standard for the construction of new facilities, using several programming criteria. The recommendations presented aim to provide all of our students with the same quality programs and resources.

While many of you have touched upon the positive aspects of a small school community, there are also benefits to a larger school community with access to 21st Century facilities and specialized programs. When enrollment decreases and schools become smaller, it becomes increasingly difficult to offer the same number of specialized programs and extra-curricular activities to students.

The proposed additions to St. John School for the **Burlington Southwest** community would include a 21st Century learning concept – offering flexible educational spaces and opportunities for active outdoor play.

A new feature of the proposed school would be the outdoor play area concept, allowing students to stay

active and provide them with an enhanced space to play, learn and interact outdoors. Most importantly, the newly constructed facility will continue to support the home-school-parish connection, by strengthening the vibrant partnerships between our students, parents, staff, pastors and members of the community.

We sincerely thank you for offering your feedback online – we will be sure to share all comments with Trustees before they reach a decision. Those interested in sharing their thoughts in person may also attend the Community Consultation Meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. [✗ Register here](#)



6w ❤️ 3

I dont think the school/parish partnership is a valid argument. You have suggested closing two schools in the southeast that both have parishes attached. The one to rebuild does not.



6w

[Image](#)

6w ❤️ 5

I posted for you some info on the statistics behind small schools versus large ones. To touch on a few of them contrary to what you're saying often extracurricular activities have less attendance in large schools due to the stringent bus schedules the children must follow. If a child must be on the bus at X time how then are they to stay after school for extra curricular activity. In the same regard how are they to be at school early enough for an activity before school when they have an assigned by schedule. In addition to that thought extracurricular activities require students to join them. A large school does not guarantee more extracurricular activities if the children do not sign up for them. In addition to that , statistics have shown that often there is much more bullying and conflict in larger schools and children feel safer in the

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summer in larger schools and children feel safer in the small school environment where they not only know every teacher whether that teacher has taught them or not but also know most students and parents. Consolidating and merging schools also does not save money in the long run. With the rising cost of fuel and the extra cost of bussing hundreds of students, security etc. not to mention the detrimental loss to a community when no school is present. This will also impact our property values and our community. As less people may move to the area and in our case I'm sure would go to the public board rather than have their children bussed downtown. Closing St Raphael in St. Paul would affectively eliminate a Catholic elementary school for an almost 8 km distance between Appleby line and Brant St. Forcing our children to bus to school when instead they could ride bikes, walk etc. The impact this will have on childhood diabetes and heart disease and obesity in the future is evident. In a time when wellness and health are so important to be teaching to our children. This proposal is contrary to that My children have been in the Catholic system for 15 years. St. Paul's has produced an honors student and the Dean's list College graduate in my daughter. And two very well rounded happy children currently attending grades one and two at St. Paul. Parent Council members and the principal have been bringing new techknowlegdies into the school and will continue to do so. Our children have access to SmartBoards, iPads, laptops, but more importantly they have human connections. Bonds and friendships and trust. As a Catholic these are the things I find much more important than how many iPads are in the classroom.

6w  3

As an add on to the spot in the 15 years my children have been in the Catholic system I have seen St. Paul School go from low enrollment requiring two portables

<https://m.uut.com/burlington-southwest-mpar>

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on site to accommodate the influx of students. The numbers are here for future enrollment. I live in the area and have spoken to many young families that have moved here and have voiced that they would consider a Catholic education for their children. Statistics Canada shows that the number of youth in many communities is increasing even in communities where there has been a decline. The Drummond Report touches on this saying that increases will begin around 2015 and must be taken into consideration when planning for controlled growth in our schools. With St. Paul's current population of around 270 students and a school acreage of 4.7 acres, arcing onto green space Park and adjacent to a board Highschool. It's baffling to me why the students would be moved downtown to what is an 'updated in 1995'. but NOT new school with hundreds of other students on a lot with an acreage of only 1.9. and very little, if any room for expansion. In your own reports it states that St. John has no parking and no bus area yet you're going to accommodate almost 300 more students ?



 6w  5

I too also believe that this is outrageous. St Paul's and St Raphaels' were my elementary schools and I have been in the catholic community for months. Forcing children to re-locate to another location when they are already very satisfied with the school they are currently at, is an inconvenience. We as individuals of the community strive to receive the best education possible for our children in order to achieve success and these schools provide us with such. There is a perfectly acceptable number of students enrolled and many teachers to cover.. so why cut them out completely? The parents, students and teachers are so close and have developed a connection. The connection will be lost and the quiet, serenity will no longer be. Downtown is very chaotic and very little

<https://m.uut.com/burlington-southwest-mpar>

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space.. it no longer provides opportunity for much freedom due to the busy streets and roads. As my mother and many other parents/families stated above, they are many faults with this move and causing these changes will corrupt the pleasantness in our society. Do not let the children or our families have to adjust to this change. Instead, adjust your perspective.



HCDSB-PAR Admin 5w

We appreciate you all taking the time to share your concerns and feedback regarding the proposal. It is evident that there have been vibrant partnerships developed between students, staff, parents, pastors and members of the community.

Please know that your input is important through this entire process – all comments on this online forum will be shared with Trustees before they reach a decision. We hope you are able to join us at the Community Consultation Meeting, which will take place on Tuesday, March 8th (✗)  
[survey.hcdsb.org/2016MPAR.aspx](https://survey.hcdsb.org/2016MPAR.aspx)



27d ❤️ 4

Dear Valued Trustees,

I am writing this letter as a concerned community member as well as a parent to 3 students currently and happily enrolled at ST. PAUL school. My eldest is in grade 5 my second is grade 3 and my youngest is in junior kindergarten.

I am fully aware and understand that society evolves and with that comes demographic changes. I also realize that sometimes the most difficult decisions are the ones that are necessary for a fully functioning society both socially and financially.

With that said I feel that closing ST. PAUL school is a devastating mistake to our catholic education and to the infamous family oriented communities that the city

of Burlington is known for.

By closing ST Paul School, the majority of children's right to walk to school is being taken away. With child obesity and diabetes on the rise and with families being so busy, A walk to school guarantees some form of physical activity daily. This is detrimental to keep our children healthy as they are the future. Currently parents and staff are able to interact daily. When students are taking the bus parents are no longer as involved and present at drop off and pick up. The relations with families and strong community feel will be lost. That Dynamic sadly changes completely. I feel that most parents, myself included will be forced into the Public sector.

Although I highly value Catholic Education, I cannot justify putting my children on a school bus for what is proposed to be a lengthy trip to ST. JOHNS. What is already a lengthy day for a young child has now increased by potentially two additional hours for travel. After school extracurricular programs would be compromised as well as valuable quality family time due to scheduling.

The congestion to the downtown core I am certain is not appreciated by established businesses and Residents alike. For Parents that choose to drive their children you are now dealing with possibly hundreds of cars adding pollutants and congesting family friendly well established neighborhoods.

What is currently a desirable top real estate neighborhood would become comparable to the rat races of other "big city" communities with a carbon footprint. This is not what makes south Burlington #1 desirable area in our real-estate market. What happens to the property value of my home now that there will be no catholic school within approximately 5 Km.

The decrease in enrollments does not have to mean a closure. We can keep our heritage. New families are increasingly moving to south Burlington as it was voted



as one of the top cities to live in nationwide. As seniors will require assisted living young families will jump at the opportunity to live in these amazing neighborhoods to raise their children. New families are immigrating here daily.

I don't feel that all options have been exercised. If the empty rooms are a concern why not create/ programs such as healthy cooking classes and Home Economic classes and teach children the fundamentals of living. Let St Paul's put their mark on the map with new programs that will draw in new enrollments. Why not use the empty space as daycares for the community that will more than likely result in enrollments? Why not change the requirements for enrollment. Open the doors to non-baptized residents and to baptized Christians of other denominations? Is the foundation of our religion not to welcome others with open arms?

The pope is in favor of welcoming other denominations to the church, so children are excelling and are at the top of their class. I feel that these experiences have given them priceless leadership opportunities and taught them to adapt and respect peers of all ages. Our school has the latest technology and our students have great programs. Some are run by staff and others by volunteer parents.

Another statement that was made was that "being in a larger populated school makes an easier transition into high school". I disagree... What a better transition than having the high school adjacent to elementary school. Our students interact with the high school students who often come to help our students and we see them on our walk to school daily. We participate in productions and assemblies together, our children look up to the high school students and aspire to be just like them one day.

Studies show there are elevated risks when children change schools at such a young age. Children under

grade 3 especially affected not doing as well on Ontario standardized testing. How can we even think of putting so many children at risk of this? Statistics are more than available to support this I'm sure you're more than aware of the many reasons amalgamation does not work as stated in the email dated January 14th 2016. Entitled "show your support for catholic education" from the Halton Catholic District school board.

Yes sometimes change brings opportunity but the site chosen as the building site is far too small to comfortably house so many students. The idea of expansion in such a busy area leaves our children exposed to pollutants and entry from various points to loiters increasing risk of potential dangers. Now as for the temporary quarters while building I ask you... if St. Paul's isn't being considered for a permanent build then how is it that we can safely house 9 portables while the project is being built??? Not only are you asking us to close our school but now asking us to sacrifice the space and safety of our children in the school yard. What will the washroom situation be what about parish trips and recess. If the purpose of this consolidation is to unify and bring two communities together, how can this be possible with everything being done separately as clearly there will not be enough space for all. I will not put my children through this chaos and unfortunately will have to sacrifice my children's right to a catholic education. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and consider these thoughts

Sincerely



27d ❤️ 2

Dear Trustees,

I wish to express my concern and disappointment at the proposal of closing St Paul's school.

My oldest daughter has been going there for only 2 years now, but she is already enjoying the school atmosphere tremendously. Making her change schools, and on top of that, sending her to a more crowded school, definitely does not sit well with us.

St Paul is on a nice, easily accessible, but not too busy street. There is lots of lovely green space around it. St Johns is on a main street, with a much smaller park.

Not to sound cliché, but a school sets the tone of the community. I'm imagining a future, where a once proud school stood. Instead, there will sit some condos, or a retail space. What was once a positive community will lose a little of its flair. Once the school is gone, it will be impossible to get back. In a not so distant future, St Johns numbers will skyrocket, and we will wish we has an extra school to put all the students.

I feel like there are a mountain of obvious reasons why this is a bad idea. The bottom line is that it sends a message to our kids that their education is not that important to us.

Like many catholic school parents, I will most likely be putting my daughter in public school if this proposed demolition of St Pauls goes ahead.



26d ❤️ 4

I agree.. A good Education comes from the heart and the mind, not from a fancy 21st architectural design.. How can any one feel that this gives kids a better opportunity. Lets get back to basics . It really bothers me that they are trying to teach our children to be materialistic. Can you imagine our children watching their school being closed , i feel that could really affect them long term, Any way we look at the closure there is no direct benefit to the children!!

Reply...



26d in General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR 1

## What is a church without children?

What is a church without children? As I was sitting in Sunday mass at St. Raphael's Roman Catholic Church this past Sunday, I was looking around at all the families and children, and trying to picture the parish without any young families. Attending St. Raphael's for my entire 40 years, I never thought I would have to consider such a foreign concept. However, in light of the recent Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews (for the Halton Catholic District School Board), this is a possibility. St. Raphael's may lose both elementary schools, if St. Paul and St. Raphael are closed. What will happen to the youth ministry? Will we no longer celebrate reconciliation and first communion? What are the implications to the parish, if the students and their families become part of St. John or St. Patrick parish communities?

As a parent of a JK student at St. Paul school, I am concerned about our parish community. One of the main reasons we chose to move to south Burlington, and send our student to St. Paul, was to remain part of the broader St. Raphael community. The Modified Pupil Accommodation Review explains that the children of St. Paul will remain with their classmates during renovations and the move to St. John. Sure, they may stay together at school but what are you doing to the children of St. Paul and St. Raphael who share the same parish? What are you doing to the parish?

I realize public consultation is set to occur at a specific time in the review. I am also clear that the modified

review does not require the establishment of an Accommodation Review Committee. In my opinion, it is very disappointing that students and representatives from the broader community and staff resources are eliminated. This is contradictory to the mission and values of the Halton Catholic District School Board, which emphasize the partnership between school, home and Church.

If we are to rely on the Board of Trustees to make the final decision, then the community and key stakeholders should at least be provided with several possible solutions, to provide input. I read the review with an open mind, acknowledging the many aspects of increasing costs and declining enrolment rates. However, instead of feeling part of the process, we were presented with one option: the amalgamation of 5 elementary schools in Burlington, resulting in 3 school closures.

Was there any consideration to keep some elementary children connected to St. Raphael parish? Was the option of consolidating St. Paul and St. Raphael schools, to support St. Raphael's church even considered? I don't know because the only possible solution that I read is that St. Paul children will go to St. John school (and St. Raphael children will go to Ascension). The review even acknowledges some of the issues with the downtown location of St. John school. It's listed as an undersized lot, but doubling the school enrollment is still apparently the best option.

Although I keep reading that "no determination has been made", I'm also not sure how a one hour meeting in March will be an opportunity for public consultation. How will our voices be heard in a one hour session? The timelines are very tight. If approved, it appears that the schools could be consolidated very quickly. Major implications such as challenges with larger school communities, job loss for teaching staff and support

staff, and declining church communities (only to name a few), are a reality. I feel like we will all look back in a few years and say "how did this happen again?"

I have lived most of my life in Burlington. I am proud to be part of a city that is comprised of many smaller communities. For our family, southwest Burlington is home. St. Paul is home and St. Raphael is home. My hope is that the families, the Churches and the communities that make Burlington what it is, will be taken into consideration. We need more options.

Parent, St. Paul Elementary School



26d 1

Very well said, you raise some very valid points and I agree completely. It's clear that the children and the parish are not priority in this proposition. I don't feel that all possibilities for a resolution have been considered. Why was there not a vote to see how we felt before proceeding? We cannot allow them to strip us of our morals, values and heritage and more importantly our roots that keep these communities alive. We have a right to a Catholic Education which many of us will have to sacrifice is this goes through.

Reply...



27d in **General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR**

## A Letter to Trustees

Dear Valued Trustees,

I am writing this letter as a concerned community member as well as a parent to 3 students currently and

member as well as a parent to 3 students currently and happily enrolled at ST. PAUL school. My eldest is in grade 5 my second is grade 3 and my youngest is in junior kindergarten.

I am fully aware and understand that society evolves and with that comes demographic changes. I also realize that sometimes the most difficult decisions are the ones that are necessary for a fully functioning society both socially and financially.

With that said I feel that closing ST. PAUL school is a devastating mistake to our catholic education and to the infamous family oriented communities that the city of Burlington is known for.

By closing ST Paul School, the majority of children's right to walk to school is being taken away. With child obesity and diabetes on the rise and with families being so busy, A walk to school guarantees some form of physical activity daily. This is detrimental to keep our children healthy as they are the future. Currently parents and staff are able to interact daily. When students are taking the bus parents are no longer as involved and present at drop off and pick up. The relations with families and strong community feel will be lost. That Dynamic sadly changes completely. I feel that most parents, myself included will be forced into the Public sector.

Although I highly value Catholic Education, I cannot justify putting my children on a school bus for what is proposed to be a lengthy trip to ST. JOHNS. What is already a lengthy day for a young child has now increased by potentially two additional hours for travel. After school extracurricular programs would be compromised as well as valuable quality family time due to scheduling.

The congestion to the downtown core I am certain is not appreciated by established businesses and Residents alike. For Parents that choose to drive their children you are now dealing with possibly hundreds of cars adding pollutants and congesting family friendly

well established neighborhoods.

What is currently a desirable top real estate neighborhood would become comparable to the rat races of other "big city" communities with a carbon footprint. This is not what makes south Burlington #1 desirable area in our real-estate market. What happens to the property value of my home now that there will be no catholic school within approximately 5 Km.

The decrease in enrollments does not have to mean a closure. We can keep our heritage. New families are increasingly moving to south Burlington as it was voted as one of the top cities to live in nationwide. As seniors will require assisted living young families will jump at the opportunity to live in these amazing neighborhoods to raise their children. New families are immigrating here daily.

I don't feel that all options have been exercised. If the empty rooms are a concern why not create/ programs such as healthy cooking classes and Home Economic classes and teach children the fundamentals of living. Let St Paul's put their mark on the map with new programs that will draw in new enrollments. Why not use the empty space as daycares for the community that will more than likely result in enrollments? Why not change the requirements for enrollment. Open the doors to non-baptized residents and to baptized Christians of other denominations? Is the foundation of our religion not to welcome others with open arms?

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this chaos and unfortunately will have to sacrifice my children's right to a catholic education. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and consider these thoughts  
Sincerely  
[REDACTED]

Reply...



HCDSB-PAR Admin 7w in **St. John (Burlington) Catholic Elementary School**

## **Burlington Southwest QEW Pupil Accommodation Review (St. John Burlington)**

On January 19, 2016, the Board approved the initiation of the Burlington Southwest QEW Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR), as it relates to the following schools:

**St. John (Burlington) Catholic Elementary School**  
**St. Paul Catholic Elementary School**

For more information about the PAR process, please visit our website: ([bit.ly/BurlingtonSouthwest-PAR](https://bit.ly/BurlingtonSouthwest-PAR))

Parents and members of the community can share their opinions and provide their comments below, and are also welcome to attend the **Community Consultation Meeting**, which will take place on: Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at Assumption Catholic Secondary School, at 7:00 p.m.

[Register for the Consultation Meeting here:] ([survey.hcdsb.org/2016MPAR.aspx](https://survey.hcdsb.org/2016MPAR.aspx))

<https://muut.com/burlington-southwest-mpar>

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Reply...



HCDSB-PAR Admin 7w in **General Discussion - Burlington Southwest PAR**

## Burlington Southwest QEW Pupil Accommodation Review


On January 19, 2016, the Board approved the initiation of the Burlington Southwest QEW Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR), as it relates to the following schools:

**St. John (Burlington) Catholic Elementary School** ()

[bit.ly/StJohnBurlington](http://bit.ly/StJohnBurlington)

**St. Paul Catholic Elementary School** ()

[bit.ly/StPaulBurlington](http://bit.ly/StPaulBurlington)

For more information about the PAR process, please visit our website: () [bit.ly/BurlingtonSouthwest-PAR](http://bit.ly/BurlingtonSouthwest-PAR))

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**[Register for the Consultation Meeting here:]** ()

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Reply...



 2d  2

In the accompanying documents with the Agenda for the upcoming Board meeting on March 22nd indicates that they have had low responses to their survey. This is how they have interpreted this data...

"Thus, the those who responded had a high affective motivation for responding. Those that did not respond are likely (and we cannot say for certain in any circumstance) did not have an interest in the survey or the questions. You could extrapolate from this that the low and negative response rate reflected the population interest, and the majority of people were not interested the survey or the issue. Therefore, it may be the case that the non-respondents are at the least neutral, unaffected or detached from the issue (i.e., not against it)."

Unbelievable that they can turn this around to suit their needs as well. It does not mean people are not against it. Funny how they have failed to indicate that not 1 person who replied is for it. In another section they have the stats on how many people are actually posting on this MPAR Discussion Forum. Too bad they don't track all the people who are reading it and agreeing with it, but not posting because their sentiments have already been told. Also doesn't take into account the current 810+ residents who have signed the Petition indicating they do not think closing St-Paul School is a good idea.

 2d  1

Here is an even better line (Pg 81) – "The non-response rate does demonstrate a bias, in that, parties who were upset or disagreed with the proposal tended to respond and this reflects THAT THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE DID NOT DISAGREE OR HAVE AN ISSUE WITH THE PROPOSAL." (I added the caps for emphasis).

For one thing, some people did not complete the online survey because they answered the same three questions at the meeting (me); why answer the same questions twice?

Most importantly though, most people are not bothering to post their comments because they don't think they can have any influence so it is a waste of time. And they are probably right.

I haven't spoken to anyone who hasn't said "it's a done deal", "they've already made up their minds", "it doesn't matter what we say, they are going to do it anyway", etc., etc.,

Also people have been told that if they don't do this the Minsitry is going to force these schools to close in a few years anyway. I call that fear mongering.

So they've created an environment where people aren't providing feedback because they've been made to feel that no one is listening anyway. And then turned around and said "Aha, you must agree then!"

Very manipulative.



PAR 7d in General Discussion - Burlington Southwest  4  4

## Play Space and Parking

I have some questions I would like answered by the Board:

I have read through all the proposals for the schools affected by this review in Halton. In every other new build or renovation the "new" school has a lot size greater than the ideal 5+ acres in their plan. Georgetown West 5.94 acres. Ascension 5.75 acres. St Joseph 5.46 acres. St Dominic 7.10 acres. Why is the proposal for us to get 1.96 acres? Both St Paul and St John are under the ideal size, with the St John lot considerably smaller when you include the adjacent park, green space and the Assumption track – all of which St Paul students have access to. How on earth do you propose to double the student population at St John, on a lot that is already almost 3 times smaller than the 5+ ideal size? Isn't the idea of the ideal 5+ acres so kids have space to run and play in a space that is not overcrowded and accommodate organized outdoor sports? The Board's own development criteria states "In order to provide for adequate play space, parking facilities, pick up / drop off, bus loops and other necessary exterior accommodations, a school of five (5) or more acres is adequate." YOUR WORDS! Where are outdoor team sports supposed to be played? St Paul has a soccer team. Where are they to practice and play? The proposal states that all programs currently offered at both schools will still be available. Also where is the track team and cross country team to run? Right now we use the Assumption track.

Both our school (St Paul) and St John already have challenges with parking at dismissal time. If this goes through, where are we to park when we pick up and drop off our kids? Many parents I have spoken to at St Paul who currently pick up their kids are opting not to bus if this goes through...so where are we going to park? This information is taken right from your Accommodation review: "St. John Catholic Elementary School has no bus loop or parking located on school property. 45 parking spaces are available for school use at the adjacent St. John's Parish. An additional 100 parking spaces can be made available on the asphalt play area during special events. The total available parking and drop-off area is inadequate for a school with approximately 300 pupils." There are currently 107 parking spaces at St Paul. The lot is already full (many times parents have to park in spots not designated for parking or along the laneway) at dismissal time. How do you plan on, at the very least, doubling the number of parents picking up kids at dismissal time and ensuring the safety of 550+ children? Do the math. 45 spots at St John, already full and 107 spots at St Paul, already full. Where are we going to park to drop off and pick up our kids? Can you not see that this is a safety issue?

m [redacted] 3d

In reviewing the information from "The Board's agenda and accompanying documents for Tuesday's Special Meeting of the Board" it is clear that the HCDSB has a DOUBLE STANDARD. St-Patricks parents have been very vocal about the fact that the Ascension site is unsafe for their children, and although many support the idea of a new school, they would like to see it built on their current site. They have been told that their site is being overlooked because it comes down to not enough acreage. Their 4+ acre lot is not suitable for that many kids, even though they have sufficient parking, useable – adjacent parkland, and a bus loop, Yet on our side it is completely ok to put 500+ kids on to 1.9 acres with no parking, no busloop, or adjacent parkland.

On another note...the cut and paste 'so called answers' we have been provided are a disgrace and the school board should be embarrassed.

m [redacted] 3d

The whole process is disingenuous. There is absolutely no integrity to any of it. The facts are continually manipulated to support whichever position they are trying to defend and there are a number of inconsistencies when you look at the bigger picture. Their rationale for not considering French Immersion programming is completely out of touch with the reality of current trends in FI programming in Canada, in Burlington and indeed within our own Board. Unfortunately you can't have a rational argument with irrational people.

m [redacted] 3d

It's just like the whole uniform issue. When it was proposed the first time they needed 67% to vote yes, and it didn't go through. So what did the Board do a few years later when there was a re-vote in 2014? They changed the number for a quorum to 50% so it would pass. How convenient! Everything gets turned around so it works in their favour.

2d ❤️ 2

Also i find it interesting that the only school offering the GR5 Extended French program in Burlington is St Gabriels. It has 14 feeder schools and is busting at the seams. Every other school offering this program in the HCDSB has only between 2-to a max of 6 feeder schools (2014 stats). There are 2 in Halton Hills, 4 in Oakville, 2 in Milton, and only 1 in Burlington????

There is definitely enough interest to have at least one other school in south Burlington offering this option to children. As most people have stated this will easily increase numbers in many of our south Burl schools

m [redacted] 4d in General Discussion - Burlington Southwest  
PAR 16 ❤️ 4  
**Answers from consultation meeting questions.**

Here's a question! Why bother holding a consultation meeting at all? You have answers for absolutely everything. Not one question did you say, that's a good question, I think we might have to have a closer look at that or that is a good idea! Why bother with a transition committee that includes a few parents and members of the community. The administration is going to do whatever they are going to do. Thanks for making us feel insignificant!

m [redacted] 4d ❤️ 1  
Well said. You took the words right out of my mouth!!!

4d ❤️ 3

But there were some very direct questions that they conveniently avoided answering by grouping with others. This whole process is just insulting to the intelligence. I have lost all respect for this school board.

m [redacted] 4d ❤️ 2

i feel that the answers provided to the questions posed at the consultation meeting are just as generic an opinionated as those we have been receiving as response to our questions throughout this whole process. there is no open mind to our very valid concerns.. it appears to me that they really dont have the answers and that the so called "transition team " will figure it all out later . at the expense of our community and most importantly our children.. TimOverholt is very skilled at beating around the bush . it wasnt stated whether or not we will know how the trustees will vote. and there was no information provided to us "stakeholders " regarding operational costs. I want to know now where the bus stops would be . how can they propose something that hasnt been thought through. I dont feel satisfied with the information provided. i dont really feel that they are concerned with the community at all as it was clearly stated in their last sentence.

4d ❤️ 1

they answered question with the matching statement...  
question...why is st pauls not suitable for long term build but its ok for 9 portables temporarily?..  
answer... we dont feel its meets the needs long term ,,  
ok ...so WHY NOT???

4d ❤️ 1

not very much say for " stakeholders" is there



4d ❤️ 1

definetly completely insulted



4d ❤️ 4

get the funding and then figure it all out later – At the expense of our children!!!!!!  
Completely insulting!



4d ❤️ 3

Please HCDSB! Show us as parents and stakeholders some respect. Address our concerns and answer our questions.

4d ❤️ 2

All our questions.



4d ❤️ 2

This is so wrong on so many levels.. I have a terrible gutt feeling that this will be the beginning of the end of South Burlington.



4d ❤️ 2

Insulted and still confused? Why is St.Johns a better sight? Why don't we have another option? Why is this starting to feel like it's a done deal and we were never really part of the process! Shame on you Catholic School Board! And I pray we get to see which trustee voted against and for...my vote next time and around and my tax dollars will be very interested to know!!!



4d ❤️ 1

Im also not happy that specifically requested information regarding operational costs .. cost to bus each child to school , utility costs currently at st pauls and st johns as well as the new proposed utliity costs.. Apparently as simply a “stakeholder” i have no need to know this. Even though my motive is to compare costs .



4d ❤️ 2

Also, question re: have Courtland Drive residents been informed their street will be used as a bus depot (they have not!) and why did the Board not consider redistributing St. Gabe's population which already has 3 portables on site. These questions were not answered.



4d

they have not practiced their due diligence at all

3d ❤️ 1

their report sent out this evening says they hand delivered letters to neighbours and residents on january 26th.. i find this difficult to beleive after personally knocking on residents doors on courtland ( proposed bus zone)... the home owners had no idea of the proposal and were more than willing to sign our petetion against this consolidation after clarification. Therer are very few people that want this to go through.. Had the HCDSB had the courtesy to families and community members and asked them directly they would with no doubt have huge numbers against this.. not everyone is comfortable to express their views online... there were not enough opportunities for people to voice their opinions.



3d



2

Thanks for bringing up the issue of communication with neighbouring residents as I have been meaning to post on this. This is one of the most upsetting things about this whole process and another example of just how deceptive our School Board has been in their approach.

I can assure you that the residents have not been properly informed that the School Board is planning to undergo a major construction project, double the size of the school, increase traffic congestion in their area, or use their street as a bus lane.

My mother lives on Courtland Drive directly behind St. John's, right in the heart of the proposed new bus lane. Letters were in fact hand delivered to residents, they are dated January 26th and were definitely delivered around that time. BUT!!!! The letters are EXTREMELY misleading. There is a cover letter and the same 2 page FAQ that was provided to parents via e-mail.

The words "Pupil Accommodation Review" are continuously repeated without any real explanation of what this means. It's confusing, especially to the elderly who currently occupy many of the surrounding homes.

The letter states that "Trustees received and approved a report and recommendation to begin a Modified Pupil Accommodation Review" and that "no determination has been made regarding any school consolidation or closures. Before the Board makes any decisions, a comprehensive community consultation will take place"...this second part is all in bold EXCEPT the words "regarding any school consolidations or closures".

That is the ONLY reference in the three pages to school consolidations or closures, and is presented in the negative. It simply states that no decision has been made but is not forthcoming in disclosing that this is in fact the recommendation of the Board, is the ONLY recommendation of the Board, and is the ONLY recommendation upon which the community is being "consulted"...(and comprehensively at that).

Reading this, one would expect that the process has just started, parents will be genuinely consulted, various alternatives considered, and a recommendation would follow from that process...not be the process...

Certainly one could not reasonably be expected to anticipate tear down and construction starting in June and the front of your house to be used as a bus lane starting a year and half from now with no turning back!!!!

The FAQ sheet repeats, again in bold that "no determination has been made" regarding any of the recommendations but does not specify what the recommendations are...which would also suggest more than one proposed course of action is being considered.

It then states that the "Board has simply asked staff to proceed with a (in bold) review – which includes a consultation process". Again, suggesting that the process is just beginning...;

I feel like this post is repetitive but so too is the letter and FAQ sheet which is designed to reassure and suggest – "no need to panic; we're just reviewing the situation and we'll decide the best course of action AFTER we consult with stakeholders".

But what I love most about the letter and FAQ, which was delivered hard copy, are all of the references to online updates and documents. In some cases they have provided the full URL. But, I can't decide which I like more; the policies and procedures whose names are underlined and the reader is invited to view – but not told where they can be found...or the bullet point that says "Click here to read the full report"...never mind that you are delivering this information to seniors in their 70s, 80s and 90s, many of whom have never used a computer...THERE IS NOTHING TO CLICK...THIS IS A HARD COPY LETTER!!!!!!

Put quite simply, the Board has not acted in good faith with the community.



3d in General Discussion - Burlington Southwest  
PAR 6 1

## How many portables at St. John's in year one???

The original proposal stated 2 portables initially after the new school was built. Staff questioned at the consultation meeting provided two different answers to this question – I was told zero portables in year one, another parent on this forum was told two. In the answers to the parking lot questions, Board is now saying one portable in year one. Which is it??? In the course of a week and a half we have received three different answers to the same question regarding enrolment 18 months from now. And these same people are making decisions based on projections 15 years out?? When we can't get a straight answer about enrolment 18 months out?

These decisions are affecting hundreds of school children, hundreds of families and whole communities and should not be taken lightly or made hastily. Very, very scary.



There are too many "if's" and "possibly" and and far too many "transition team will handle it" answers.. seems to be that this proposal has been thrown together without the proper research . the proposal says between 4-6 new classes .. well which one is it ??? is it 4 or 5 or 6??? its not enough to say we'll figure it out later.. its not like they're choosing a paint color !!! this is a decision that affects the whole community.. you'd think their answers would be more clear cut. and that they would be more willing to work with the community . [Like](#)



3d

Also not happy that in the answers says more than likely students grades 4-6 from both schools combined will be in portables for the transition year,, thats potentially both my older two.,so tell me how this benefits our children and tell me again that portables have comparable safety to bricks and mortar!!

3d

perhaps they will need no portables at all as i know a good number will be going public .



3d 2

it completely boggles my mind that the School Board is turning a blind eye to every single issue raised. They currently have a one track mind and refuse to even consider the negative impact this amalgamation will have. They somehow think by having a 'Transition Committee' these issues go away???? Definitely NOT the case. The Transition Committee will be forced to make the best of a HORRIBLE decision. They can't increase parking spaces, they can't give back the right to walk to school, they can't ensure our kids will not be in portables, they can't change the fact that our kids will be in an overcrowded school, they can't increase the lot size, and most importantly they can't ensure the safety of our children which is being compromised due to placing 500+ students onto a site that is just not big enough!



3d

I agree completely , it's like saying we'll worry about the weak basket once all the eggs are broken. if a consolidation is necessary for the future then do it right.! as you say you cant increase the property size and if there's an increase in students there wont be room for portables as the site is too small. You cant propose something to parents with so many unanswered questions.

3d

\*parents



## We are Both are at 80% capacity and doing well academically. So why?

I don't know about the rest of you but probably the most disturbing thing that occurred for me during the community meeting was my discussion with the young woman from the board that was brought over to answer my questions. When I asked her if it was accurate that after the addition of St. John school is added there would be 2 portables on site right away because we would already be exceeding capacity from the start. (Beyond 100% full) She told me yes. So I asked her what if you're wrong? What if you're wrong about declining enrolment numbers? Her response to me was a shoulder

Shrug and "more portables I guess". This response greatly upset me. The boards own proposal states that TWO portables on St. John site are not recommended nor safe in the long term. That the site is not large enough and is not suitable. So her response that not only will those two portables remain but that more would be added was surprising and upsetting. When I asked her to clarify her statements, and if what she was saying was that regardless of the boards proposal saying portables are not a viable or safe option in the long term future, would they still bring our children into portables on site, I was greeted with a blank stare and reiteration that numbers would decline. Since the boards predictions for declining numbers are based on trends over the last 10 years, the JK enrollment, and the birth rates. I'm reluctant to believe their data predictions could be accurate. This does not take into account that many parents do not enroll their children in junior kindergarten or even senior kindergarten as they are not mandatory grades. Many choose not to enroll their children in school until grade one which would change the data. Further to that not all infants are baptized until right before school age or indicate their religion on forms so I do not see how this birth rate data is a good way to determine Catholic students in the future. If they were to look to current trends and not past trends they would see that we are in the midst of the housing bubble, as well as very high demand for Family homes in the South Burlington area particularly around St. Paul school. This is not a condo and townhouse development area, this is primarily detached family homes. Real estate data shows that homes are selling like crazy with turnover been 30 days or less on most sales. Eliminating a school in this area would be a serious mistake.

I keep looking for the positives my children will experience by moving to St. John school. I would like to be happy with this possible decision and think it is in the best interest of my children but I keep struggling to come up with any. If the board would offer us a proposal that offered my children the same opportunities and community resources they currently have I would be more than happy to listen to it. Yes they're could be new friendships But that doesn't trump my children being offered a proposal that gives them a school site with less green space and parking, more crowded classrooms, the loss of their community connections, no ability to walk or ride bikes to school, a daily commute that will add hours to their day and take away from the family time I receive with my children after school and before school, the loss of amazing teacher/staff relationships my children have with all staff at their school whether they've ever been taught by them or not, The amazing extracurricular programs and events offered by parents and staff who are able to volunteer because they are

Close by , and of course the Parish connections to our neighboring school and Church community. My children may not do well socially at the new school site but in addition to that they may actually academically suffer if they do not adjust. There are many studies to say that children who move schools often perform less well academically. Not to mention the adverse effects of not being able to walk to school in their local community. But I'm sure you all know this.

As parents who have had 3 children in the Catholic board for 15 years starting from JK all the way through high school, and an infant who we hoped would attend his community Catholic school in the next two years you're so distressed to think we may have to seriously consider moving into the public system in our neighbourhood. We ourselves went to Catholic school, as did our parents before us, our family members have taught in the system. We would've loved to have remained for years to come. This is not just a emotional opposition to this proposal it is a logical one. It doesn't benefit St. Paul's students or St. John's students either who would have to move twice. Think of our children before fiscal budgets. Think of our faith would Jesus want you to make decisions based on Economics or Emotion? Faith or Fiscal budgets?



10d 2

Not to gloss over your other points but this issue of portables is very confusing. I too thought there was going to be 2 portables at the outset and I approached Overholt and Dawson at the meeting and inquired and they said no. They said the original plan called for 2 portables but now they were planning to build 6 classrooms so no portables – I guess the original plan was only for 4 classrooms – still not sure how they are going to cram 266 students into 6 classrooms, 2 of which are “flexible” classrooms – whatever that means. This all concerns me for many reasons. First of all we each got completely different answers to the same question so which is correct? The fact that they can't get the facts straight amongst themselves I think goes to show how hastily this has all been put together and without a lot of attention to detail...which is very scary particularly considering the timeline for implementation as well doesn't leave a lot of room for error. The responses you got from whomever you spoke to are atrocious and arrogant. I too am concerned with the fact they have left no room for error on the chance their projections are wrong and enrolment increases (remember Lakeshore Public School). Again, displaying arrogance that their projections can't possibly be wrong and therefore don't need to leave any room for error. This whole thing is starting to remind me of the Target debacle. Sadly it is our children that will pay the price.



9d

I don't know what they plan to do. Except give us different stories I guess . I do know that the original proposal says 4 to 6 Classrooms, and two portables.



3d

yes 4-6 somewhere in between maybe ??? they'll figure it out later. what a joke



4d 2

huge demand for french immersion

4d 2

Their responses to the French Immersion (FI) questions are insulting. This school board is either completely out to lunch or they think we are. They keep referring back to when FI was offered at Ascension 10 years ago and there was not enough demand.

#1. A lot has changed in 10 years. Demand for FI has increased so much that (public) schools are losing their English track programming as a result. See Globe & Mail article referenced above.

#2. When FI was offered at Ascension, transportation was not provided. Since offering transportation there has been a much higher demand for FI in our own Board. So much so that St. Gabriel's enrolment has exceeded capacity and they have 3 portables on site. (Note that the Board completely avoided the question of redistributing students between St. Gabe's and St. John's).

#3. Ascension is in one corner of Burlington, almost in Oakville, making it a significant distance for many Burlington students. Did I mention that they did not offer transportation at the time?

Also, Board has stated that “the introduction of new programs at a school does not necessarily draw additional students. Typically there is a re-apportionment of students from the regular day program...”.

#1. Well, FI has definitely attracted additional students to St. Gabriel, where approximately half the FI students are from other schools. I would venture to guess the same is true at Sacred Heart where grades offering (early entry) FI have significantly more classes than grades that do not. In addition, many parents will transfer siblings of FI students so that their children are not split between two schools.

#2. Another way to address declining enrolment is through retention – students would not be leaving their home schools in South Burlington to attend FI in the North if it were offered in the South!!

#3. The Board has stated throughout this process that they “want all of our students to have access to and be able to benefit from the same programs and services”. Wouldn't this be accomplished by offering FI in more of our schools and not just in the North part of Burlington?

By offering FI in South Burlington, HCDSB could (a) truly expand program offerings to all of their students, (b) stem the declining enrolment in South Burlington and (c) ease the burden on North Burlington schools.

Seems like a win-win-win to me.

Please, HCDSB, show your stakeholders some respect, be honest, and tell us the real reason why you have not considered the expansion of French Immersion programming to South Burlington.



 4d  2

Have they even looked at the numbers of students they are currently bussing out of our South Burlington Schools to go to FI? Last year St Paul alone had 6 students from Grade 1 leave to be bussed to North Burlington. That is looking at one grade at one school only. If FI was offered here our 'so called declining numbers' would go right back up.

 4d  2

I'm certain there are Catholic families going public right from JK because of limited FI programming in our Board. Hard to get a handle on those numbers but I'm sure they are there. Same goes for gifted programming.

 3d

there were a few grade 5's that I am aware of as well that left for french immersion.

3d

i know in my yougest daughters class there is talk of many going to french immersion for grade one , some have been put on a waiting list as the demmand is so high. how do they not investigate these issues???

 4d  1

Oh and the Trustee who called us "South Burlingtons spoil" was Arlene lantomasi of wards 1 & 2 she is the Vice Chair of the Board...can I put a bet on which way her vote will go? Lol

 4d  1

How dare she judge us and refer to us as "spoiled" , obviously jealous of the amazing dynamic that our community has.. I dont feel that we are spoiled as I know we worked very hard to get to where we are in life , we pay our taxes just like everyone else. To call us spolied as thoughthings were handed to us .My husband is a civil servant who risks his life to pay his taxes that support these trustees salaries,. these tustees need a reminder that they work for us. If she feels that we are spolied its becuase we have something so amazing and so rare that can not be measured in dollars.

 4d  1

"Spoiled with our smaller schools for far to long" was her exact words! I was taken back thinking this is someone who hasn't made up her mind? Come on?

 4d  1

How dare we want to keep such a good thing !! its our duty as parents to throw our kids into rat races ! ( sarcasm) why protect them with equal opportunity and higher student acheivement and green living options.. Why would anyone want that , especially since our children will be running this city one day.

•4d  1

talk about being bullied

 4d  1

I figured it was her...sounds like something she would say

•4d  2

Interesting too because she is part of Holary Rosary community which is only South Burlington school not part of this fiasco.



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southwest QEW School Project**

# **APPENDIX C**



# 2015-16 Pupil Accommodation Reviews

Online Community Feedback

Prepared by:  
*Research & Development Services*  
3/18/2016

For More Information, please contact:  
Candace Rempel, MA, *Research Officer*



# 2015-16 Pupil Accommodation Reviews

## Summary of Online Community Feedback

Prior to and following the individual Community Consultation Meetings held March 2, 3, 7, and 8 at HCDSB secondary schools, parents, students, staff, community and parish members were provided with an opportunity to submit their feedback about the proposed Pupil Accommodation Reviews via HCDSB's online survey system. The online feedback collection form remained open for parent responses from Wednesday February 17, 2016 until Friday March 11, 2016. This report provides a summary of the online responses received.

### Online Pupil Accommodation Review Survey Response Breakdown

- 320 feedback forms were received
  - 123 forms were completed for the Burlington Southeast of QEW Review
  - 51 forms were completed for the Georgetown Review
  - 58 forms were completed for the Oakville South Review
  - 88 forms were completed for the Burlington Southwest of the QEW Review

The following table displays the number of feedback forms that were completed for each of the schools affected in the Pupil Accommodation Review. The feedback forms where respondents did not identify the school are reported as Blank.

| Burlington Southeast  | #   | Georgetown             | #  |
|-----------------------|-----|------------------------|----|
| Ascension             | 28  | Holy Cross             | 24 |
| St. Patrick           | 34  | St. Francis of Assissi | 26 |
| St. Raphael           | 40  | Blank                  | 1  |
| Blank                 | 21  |                        |    |
| TOTAL                 | 123 | TOTAL                  | 51 |
| Oakville South        | #   | Burlington Southwest   | #  |
| St. Dominic           | 23  | St. John               | 24 |
| St. James             | 6   | St. Paul               | 50 |
| St. Joseph (Oakville) | 27  | Blank                  | 14 |
| Blank                 | 2   |                        |    |
| TOTAL                 | 58  | TOTAL                  | 88 |

### Support for the Pupil Accommodation Review

In some cases (not all), it was difficult to discern whether the respondent supported the Pupil Accommodation Review plan prepared by the Board. While some respondents directly communicated that they "Loved it" or "Liked nothing about it", Research and Development Services acknowledged that the majority of respondents were responding to the three questions posed – identifying what they liked, challenges that they foresaw, and suggestions for improvement.

In order to paint a picture of the nature of the comments received, Research and Development Services coded and reported the percentage of respondents who provided a constructive comment

for each of the three questions. These percentages are broken down by school, to capture patterns that exist among school communities. Percentages are reported for groups of 15 or more.

### Burlington Southeast of the QEW

| School<br>(forms received) | Question 1<br>What do you like best...? | Question 2<br>What are the challenges you see...? | Question 3<br>Do you have any suggestions to improve the plan? |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ascension (28)             | 24 (85.7%)                              | 25 (89.3%)                                        | 17 (60.7%)                                                     |
| St. Patrick (34)           | 14 (41.2%)                              | 30 (88.2%)                                        | 27 (79.4%)                                                     |
| St. Raphael (40)           | 20 (50%)                                | 37 (92.5%)                                        | 31 (77.5%)                                                     |
| Blank (21)                 | 7 (33.3%)                               | 19 (90.5%)                                        | 17 (81%)                                                       |

### Georgetown

| School<br>(forms received) | Question 1<br>What do you like best...? | Question 2<br>What are the challenges you see...? | Question 3<br>Do you have any suggestions to improve the plan? |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Holy Cross (24)            | 24 (91.7%)                              | 19 (79.2%)                                        | 15 (62.5%)                                                     |
| St. Francis (26)           | 17 (65.4%)                              | 21 (80.8%)                                        | 12 (46.2%)                                                     |
| Blank (1)                  |                                         | 1                                                 | 1                                                              |

### Oakville South

| School<br>(forms received) | Question 1<br>What do you like best...? | Question 2<br>What are the challenges you see...? | Question 3<br>Do you have any suggestions to improve the plan? |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| St. Dominic (23)           | 16 (69.6%)                              | 16 (69.6%)                                        | 13 (56.5%)                                                     |
| St. James (6)              | 3                                       | 5                                                 | 4                                                              |
| St. Joseph (27)            | 21 (77.8%)                              | 24 (88.9%)                                        | 15 (55.5%)                                                     |
| Blank (2)                  | 1                                       | 2                                                 | 1                                                              |

### Burlington Southwest of the QEW

| School<br>(forms received) | Question 1<br>What do you like best...? | Question 2<br>What are the challenges you see...? | Question 3<br>Do you have any suggestions to improve the plan? |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| St. John (24)              | 12 (50%)                                | 23 (95.8%)                                        | 18 (75%)                                                       |
| St. Paul (50)              | 11 (22%)                                | 43 (86%)                                          | 41 (82%)                                                       |
| Blank (14)                 | 2                                       | 10                                                | 8                                                              |

## Low Response

Although the feedback received was from communities with some lower enrollment schools, the amount of feedback that was received was lower than anticipated. Given that the Board of Trustees would be making decisions about the most appropriate pupil accommodation arrangements for the HCDSB (which may lead to school consolidations and/or closures) after they had the opportunity to read and reflect on the comments provided by the community, the Research

Department predicted a higher response for the online survey. The online feedback form was open to all members of each community. The form could be accessed via the Board's public website, where all of the information for the PARs was located. The following possible explanations for this phenomenon are outlined below.

### Multiple Opportunities to Provide Feedback

Parents, students, staff, community and parish members were provided with various outlets to provide feedback on the proposed plan affecting their community. Interested stakeholders could submit input on the plan: 1. at the Community Consultation; 2. in the online discussion forum; 3. and through the Online Survey System. Further, 4. letters and emails received by the Board were also reviewed and documented in the reports. It is possible that the lower than expected response to the online feedback form is a result of community members choosing an alternate way to submit their input on the proposed plan.

### Sampling and Non-response

The online feedback form, or survey, allowed for the equal opportunity for all interested parties, regardless of opinion to participate in and provide their concerns – meaning it was fair and open to all. This means that the vast majority of individuals who had an opportunity to weigh in on the survey did not participate in the survey when they had the opportunity to do so. The non-response rate does demonstrate a bias, in that, parties who were upset or disagreed with the proposal tended to respond, and this reflects the reality that the majority of people did not disagree or have an issue with the proposal. The survey, by its very nature, attracted the voice of the individuals who are in disagreement with the proposal. If the small sample that responded, demonstrated a more evenly distributed opinion, then a larger sample would be required. The fact that in some schools/communities it was almost entirely skewed towards a negative opinion means that the survey was only of interest to that particular party. A larger sample would not provide a more "balanced view" because the nature of the survey itself.

According to Groves (2006, p. 664), "...positive or negative affect toward the sponsor of the survey may be related to the survey variables measured. *In at least some surveys, these influences on survey participation are correlated with the variables of interest in the survey*" (emphasis added).<sup>1</sup> The practitioner must decide whether this is likely to be the case and whether, therefore, differential effort should be assigned to the groups with low base propensities."

Thus, the those who responded had a high affective motivation for responding. Those that did not respond are likely (and we cannot say for certain in any circumstance) did not have an interest in the survey or the questions. You could extrapolate from this that the low and negative response rate reflected the population interest, and the majority of people were not interested the survey or the issue. Therefore, it may be the case that the non-respondents are at the least neutral, unaffected or detached from the issue (i.e., not against it).

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<sup>1</sup> Groves, R. M. (2006). Nonresponse rates and nonresponsive bias in household surveys. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 70(5), 646-675.

## Burlington Southwest of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review (affecting St. John and St. Paul Schools)

### Themes Present in Online Community Feedback Form – by School

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Following the Community Consultation Meeting held Tuesday March 8, 2016 at Assumption Secondary School, current and future parents, students, staff members, and parish members impacted by the consolidation proposals were provided with an opportunity to submit their feedback about the proposed boundary reviews via HCDSB's online survey system. The online feedback collection form remained open for community feedback from Wednesday February 17, 2016 until Friday March 11, 2016. This report provides a summary of the online responses received for the Burlington Southwest Pupil Accommodation Review and an analysis of themes observed in the responses received for the St. John and St. Paul school communities.

### St. John School

#### Online Feedback Form Response

- A total of 88 Feedback Forms were received for the Burlington Southwest PAR
- 24 of the Southwest feedback forms (27.3%) were received from St. John School
  - 23 of the 24 (95.8%) forms received were current St. John parents/guardians
  - The other feedback form (1) received was from a future St. John parent/guardian

#### **Question 1: What do you like best about the proposed plan?**

It is important to note that greatest theme within this question was from parents who said that they did not like anything about the new plan. Some parents elaborated saying that they were unclear about what the plan entailed, or that the plan and process seemed rushed or short-sighted. However, twelve (50%) of the forms received included comments about what the respondent liked best about the proposed plan. Within those comments, three emerging themes (largest to least) could be identified and are listed below.

1. **Location of New School Site:** The majority of the respondents stated that they liked that the new school for St. John and St. Paul would remain situated on the existing St. John site located on Brant Street.
2. **Access to Resources and Programs:** many of the respondents identified that a new school site would provide their child with opportunities to access better resources and technologies, participate in specialized programs and will provide opportunities for greater involvement in extra-curricular activities within modern, updated school facilities.
3. **Size of Classes & Student Population:** Several parents liked the fact that a new school will mean less split classes and that that a larger school may eliminate classes with disproportionate numbers of male and female students. Other

parents felt that a larger school population would provide their child with greater social development opportunities including chances to make new friends.

**Question 2: What are the challenges you see with this plan?**

All but one St. John respondent (95.8%) identified concerns with the proposed plan.

There were six emerging themes within these responses:

1. **Confusion Surrounding Transition:** Several respondents spoke about challenges that would be posed in the transition year while the school was being built and again when staff and students moved into the new school. Respondents had questions about the availability of space, afterschool care availability, and bell times. A few parents noted how the transition would create problems with their family's established routines and needs.
2. **Transportation:** A large proportion of respondents were concerned with transportation issues that would result from the plan. Respondents were concerned with the added traffic in an already busy parking lot with poor traffic flow, and the challenges posed accessing and exiting the lot on by an already busy street. Other respondents cited concerns that the distance to the school for some students would result in more students being bussed – reducing the number of students able to walk to school.
3. **Larger School and Classes:** Many respondents were worried that a larger school and classes, and additional students would have negative impacts on the quality of education and student learning due to higher student to teacher ratios and less individual attention.
4. **Loss of Unique School Culture/Community:** many respondents were concerned that the consolidation process would result in the loss of their unique school culture, routines, and traditions.
5. **Loss of Church/Parish:** A few respondents mentioned that the closing schools of St. Paul school would also result in the loss of the parish-school connection for St. Paul families.
6. **Other:** There were individual concerns around purchasing new uniforms, the possibility of families leaving the HCDSB to enroll at the public school board, the small size of the St. John property, the availability of afterschool care, and whether the plan could be carried out within the projected timelines.

Example:

*“Schools that have a strong sense of community, where the teachers and principal know the students by name and have relationships with the parents would be lost as a result of this proposal. I see a school that would be crowded, possibly requiring portables, a school (St. Johns) that is already seriously challenged in terms of parking, pickup and drop off becoming even more burdened with a large increase to the student population.”*

### Question 3: Do you have any suggestions to improve the proposed plan?

The majority of respondents (18 or 75%) offered suggestions to the Board to improve the plan. Many respondents chose to reiterate their concerns in this section, and many simply suggested abandoning or delaying the plan. The only discernable theme in this section was suggestions to make major alterations to the proposed plan. For example, respondents encouraged the Board to be more creative in their plan (e.g. revisiting boundaries, introducing specialized programming – French Immersion, technology, and outdoor education to attract enrollment). Others made suggestions for alternative consolidation pairings – St. Paul and St. Raphael, and St. Patrick and Ascension, or and close other sites but there were some discernable suggestions for improvement. Other suggestions which did not cluster with other responses include:

- a) Over-estimate the construction timelines and budget
- b) Offer greater transportation accommodations for students
- c) Develop a transition committee and opportunities for students and parents to volunteer and get involved
- d) Provide greater communication around this process
- e) Maintain small class sizes

Example:

*“CLOSE ST JOHN AND MOVE TO ST PAUL My child goes to ST John's and the building is lovely and more modern than ST Pauls, but the physical space doesn't make sense. It would be better to sell the property ST John's sits on and rebuild a very modern ST Pauls. Instead of expanding out from the area the St Paul's building currently sits on, build up. For accessibility elevators will need to be put in, so build the school up- not out, make it 3 floors instead of 2. Use the space better. MERGE ST PAUL WITH ST RAPHAEL, MERGE ST PATRICKS & ASCENSION, KEEP ST JOHN I am not sure I understand the boundary division and why this proposal is for St Paul/ST John and not St Paul/St Raphaels? Would it not be better to combine St Paul and ST Raphaels at St Raphaels which also has a church community, and give the students of St Pauls the option to go to St Raphaels or St John's? Then combine St Patricks and Ascension into one school at Ascension as proposed. You end up with 3 schools open instead of two, but students/resources are still being consolidated. MAKE ST JOHN A SPECIALIZED SCHOOL (or any of the south schools)... You should be asking parents what they want to see in their schools. The South Burlington Catholic schools don't have the same programming that has been built into the North Burlington schools, if you can bus into St Gabriel for French from all over Burlington, you can bus into St John. It needn't be just French, have a gifted program or specialised special education program at the school. There is a lack of technology being taught in the schools, have a specialized program to draw students in the elementary grades to tinkering and tech. Have an outdoor education program at one of the South Schools or an Arts school... I am not sure why the board lacks creativity in this and why the consultation wasn't done with parents, community members, church members in 2014 when the funding became available in the first place. The plans are short sighted, hurried, not very*

*creative and really divisive to the school communities who feel that their voices are not being heard.”*

## St. Paul School

### Online Feedback Form Response

- A total of 88 Feedback Forms were received for the Burlington Southwest PAR
- 50 of the Southwest feedback forms (56.8%) were received from St. Paul School
  - 46 of the 50 (92%) forms received were current St. Paul parents/guardians
  - 3 of the 50 (6%) of the forms were received from future St. Paul parents/guardians
  - The other form (1) was from a Parish member in Southwest Burlington

### Question 1: What do you like best about the proposed plan?

An overwhelming majority of responses to this question were replies of, “I like nothing about this plan,” “I don’t see any benefits to the proposed plan,” or just one word – “nothing”. Of the 11 respondents (22%) who identified something they liked in the plan, two other themes emerged:

1. Benefits of a New School: Respondents who were able to identify benefits in the proposal said that they liked that their children would be attending a modern, updated and aesthetically pleasing new school. They noted the new facility would have better amenities, greater resources, and a 21<sup>st</sup> learning environment.
2. Planning for the future of Catholic Education: A few of the St. Paul families stated that they liked that the Board was planning for declining enrollment in our Catholic elementary schools. Others noted that they appreciated that the Board would retain the St. Paul land which could be used to rebuild of Assumption Secondary School – which they felt would benefit the south Burlington communities.

### Example:

*“Though I truly do like a small school and the community of St Paul as it is now, I do see benefit to a larger school community. St Paul is a vibrant community in which many opportunities and initiatives for students are available - it is quite remarkable, actually, for a school of this size. Having said this, more is possible in a larger school community. Given that St Paul school would need some major work in order to be accessible for all and to be a place that can maximize the potential of 21st Century Learning, I understand the reason for the proposal as it is put forth now. I do fear that if this proposal does not become a reality, then down the road St Paul will have to close; if not for declining enrolment then due to the age of the building. If this happens, I fear that the current boundary of St Paul will be divided and students will be sent off to which ever school picks up the children from the different areas of the neighbourhood. For this reason, perhaps moving ahead with this proposal will, in fact, save Catholic education in this area, keeping much of the student body of St Paul together while merging with the student body of another good school community. In addition, it has been*

*indicated that the St Paul site would be held for future development for the school board. This could, down the road, mean that there will be land available to expand or rebuild Assumption Catholic School, which is another aging facility. Having a state of the art Catholic secondary school in this neighbourhood would, I feel, strengthen Catholic education in our community.”*

## **Question 2: What are the challenges you see with this plan?**

It is important to note that the greatest volume of the data received from St. Paul respondents can be classified as challenges. Of the 50 forms received, 43 (86%) included challenges, and many comments identified multiple challenges. The following six themes were present in the data.

1. Loss of HCDSB and St. Paul families to the public board: Numerous respondents threatened that should the plan go through and the new school site be developed on St. John’s existing property, that they would be (“taking their tax dollars”) enrolling their children at the closest public school.
2. The Proposed Plan: Concerns about the content of the plan and the impact for the Southwest Burlington community were also raised by a vast number of respondents. Survey responses described Board employees making decisions as inexperienced or misinformed, and motivated by Ministry funding rather than what was best for student learning and well-being. A number of respondents questioned the enrollment projections and questioned whether the Board had considered the gentrification and demographic changes happening in south Burlington, which would draw young families to the community near GO Stations, and as the aging population moved out of the neighbourhoods surrounding the schools included in the plan. Other comments were critical of the development of a plan that did not include consultation with parents and community members, and the consultation meetings that presented a plan but “did not listen to what parents had to say”.
3. Transportation and parking: poses a significant challenge for St. Paul families. Many respondents were infuriated that they were losing a school within walking distance, that their children would need to travel (“up to 2 hours per day”) by bus, or that they would now need to drive their children to school. Those faced with driving their children to school had concerns about the parking lot at St. John school. They remarked that the parking lot is busy with poor traffic flow and cannot accommodate the number of parents that will be dropping off their children and picking them up, which may result in safety issues for children, and increased stress and time added to their day.
4. Location: The majority of the respondents in this survey were concerned with the St. John site. Respondents were concerned about the traffic and the safety of the students at a location on a busy road with a small parking lot. They were concerned that the 1.9-acre site could not comfortably accommodate the number of students that were proposed in the plan. As a result of the smaller site, respondents had concerns about the lack of play or greenspace that would be afforded to the children, which would be exacerbated by the larger parking lot that would be needed and the portables required in the plan.



5. Loss of “small school feel” and impact of the “super school”: Several respondents on the survey felt that one larger school would affect the quality of the education provided due to increased class sizes and fewer teachers. Concerns about decreased opportunities for individual help, negative impacts on student learning, and student safety - bullying, and drugs, were anticipated as a result of the larger school.
6. Loss of School Community and Parish/Church Connection: Many respondents expressed sadness at the potential loss of their established school community and relationships that developed between students, staff and families as well as the parish. Respondents were upset with losing the connected Church or Parish. Respondents felt this would have an impact on the Catholicity of student education.

Example:

*“The lot size at St John is not suitable for 500+ students. Portables will eat up any outdoor space because even with the addition of 4-6 classrooms there will not be enough space in the school to accommodate all these kids - that is unless you are going to increase all the class sizes (once again another negative for our children) The requirement of a transition year where 2 schools will operate separately on one site will only cause confusion and animosity amongst the kids from the 2 different schools. Pick up and drop off is already an issue with only one school in operation. Many people will pull their kids from the Catholic system and enroll their children in the Public system where they have options of schools much closer to home. This will have a negative impact on the future of Catholic Education.”*

### **Question 3: Do you have any suggestions to improve the proposed plan?**

Many respondents chose to reiterate their concerns in this section, but there were some discernable suggestions. There were 41 responses (82%) that included suggestions for improvement. However, there were only two major themes that presented in this section, and a couple of constructive suggestions for the implementation of the plan if successful which did not cluster with other comments.

1. “Don’t do it”: A majority of the comments in this question involved the suggestion that the board should abandon this plan, delay it, and leave everything as it is.
2. Adjustment to the Plan: Many of the respondents suggested that the Board consider developing the new school on the St. Paul site because it is in a quieter residential area, on a larger site with more green space, and the connection to Assumption provides the school community with access to their track and amenities.
3. Alternate Consolidation options: Numerous other comments suggested that the Board consider consolidating St. Raphael and St. Paul, a few others mentioned that Holy Rosary should be included in the process and St. Patrick and Ascension be consolidated.

There were a few suggestions that were constructive, they are:

- a) Make improvements to the consultation process
- b) Study the traffic and parking situation to come up with a plan at St. John
- c) Plan for transition opportunities for school communities to allow everyone to get to know one another (game night, assemblies, school trips, etc.)

Example:

*“Have a full review of all five schools currently in the modified review process. It makes no sense to review them separately as St Raphael's and St Paul's have a common border. If these proposals are accepted there will be no Catholic elementary schools from East of Appleyby Line to Brant Street. Catholic education should be accessible to everyone and the students should be the priority. The parents and parishes should be more involved in the review from the start e.g. you could set up an advisory panel and there should be a few realistic options for the schools affected. This may take more time and cost more money but at least it should take advantage of the opportunity to plan for the future of Catholic elementary education in South Burlington without losing a lot of current and future students to the public school system and keeping schools as accessible as possible.”*

## No School Disclosed

### Online Feedback Form Response

- A total of 88 Feedback Forms were received for the Burlington Southwest PAR
- On 14 of the 88 (15.9%) feedback forms, no school was disclosed.
  - 6 of the 14 forms received were current parents/guardians
  - 3 respondents identified themselves as member of an affected community
  - An additional 3 forms were received from respondents classified as ‘other’ – a retired employee, crossing guard, grandparent
  - 1 feedback form received was from a future parent/guardian
  - 1 respondent identified themselves as a Parish member of the community

There were a small sample of respondents who chose not to identify with a particular school, or left the field blank. The responses and themes raised most closely mirrored the comments of St. Paul respondents – identifying very few elements of the plan that they liked, and numerous concerns including transportation, loss of their small community school, the choice of St. John's as the site for the new school, and suggestions to abandon the plan or consider consolidating St. Paul and St. Raphael.

Burlington Southwest of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

| RESPONSE ID | WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT THE PROPOSED PLAN?          | WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES YOU SEE WITH THIS PLAN?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE THE PROPOSED PLAN?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 277147      | Expansion plan of St John site                          | Transportation for my children - we utilize before and after care. Will there be enough spaces? How do I get my children to a school further away (ie disruption to work) for a whole year as they aren't old enough to be bussed on their own? My youngest is going into xxx in the fall we purchased a home in this area for the school etc and that there was accommodation for students within the main building and not portables. I don't think that portables are ideal for learning as it segregates them from the rest of the student populous.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | I unfortunately don't have a suggestion on how to handle the issues brought up in the previous response.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 261593      | Final school location will be St John                   | Class sizes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 277622      | The questionable outcome of access to better resources. | <p>PARKING AND TRAFFIC FLOW AT ST JOHN's AND ON BRANT STREET The parking and traffic at St John's. Brant Street is very busy. If you are driving south on Brant to get into the lot, the sun gets in your eyes and it is a hazard to pedestrians. The entrance for pedestrians to the school is right there as well, so it is a high foot traffic area. There should be an advanced green at Brant and Blairholm to re-route the traffic for a safe left turn onto Blairholm and entrance to the school lot off Blairholm instead of Brant. There are cars trying to get into the medical building come South to North on Brant and making a left, it is a really hazardous intersection. Children are also going to Central school so it is really busy. I would recommend that someone from the board actually go and observe the corner of Brant and Blairholm and the entrance to St John's off of Brant for a week in various weather conditions. It is a hazard. Then there is the traffic problems inside of the parking lot. It is also a hazard. The lot is not big enough. The church blocks off and rents part of the parking. The school board should buy if from the church. Instead of making money the church should be contributing to the school community. The traffic flow is bad inside the lot, parents stop in the middle of the laneway to drop their kids off and you can't get around them, so you have cars randomly stopped and kids all over the place. There is no "kiss and ride"</p> | <p>CLOSE ST JOHN AND MOVE TO ST PAUL My child goes to ST John's and the building is lovely and more modern that ST Pauls, but the physical space doesn't make sense. It would be better to sell the property ST John's sits on and rebuild a very modern ST Pauls. Instead of expanding out from the area the St Paul's building currently sits on, build up. For accessibility elevators will need to be put in, so build the school up- not out, make it 3 floors instead of 2. Use the space better. MERGE ST PAUL WITH ST RAPHAEL, MERGE ST PATRICKS &amp; ASCENSION, KEEP ST JOHN I am not sure I understand the boundary division and why this proposal is for St Paul/ST John and not St Paul/St Raphaels? Would it not be better to combine St Paul and ST Raphaels at St Raphaels which also has a church community, and give the students of St Pauls the option to go to St Raphaels or St John's? Then combine St Patricks and Ascension into one school at Ascension as proposed. You end up with 3 schools open instead of two, but students/resouruces are still being consolidated. MAKE ST JOHN A SPECIALIZED SCHOOL (or any of the south schools) The HCDSB only has one school in Burlington that offers extended French starting in Grade 5. St Gabriel's in Burlington school is the sole destination for extended french accepting students from 14 different feeder schools in Burlington.</p> |

Burlington Southwest of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

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|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                          |                                                | <p>type of drop off that is safe in the lot. When it snows, the lot size is decreased because of the snowbanks. The kids also play on the snowbanks which go into the lot When there is a funeral, there is even a greater chaos. COST AND TIME OVERRUN What happens if this project is not completed within a year?</p>                                                                                                                                             | <p>According to the statistics from the Halton Region, Burlington has a population of 174,432, only second in number in Halton region to Oakville 184,150. Yet the other cities in the region and part of the HCDSB in milton, Halton Hills and Georgetown, have significantly lower numbers yet better access to Extended french programs. There was a waitlist for this program when registration started. Parents would like extended French or French immersion options. You should be asking parents what they want to see in their schools. The South Burlington Catholic schools don't have the same programming that has been built into the North Burlington schools, if you can bus into St Gabriel for French from all over Burlington, you can bus into St John. It needn't be just French, have a gifted program or specialised special education program at the school. There is a lack of technology being taught in the schools, have a specialized program to draw students in the elementary grades to tinkering and tech. Have an outdoor education program at one of the South Schools or an Arts school. It happens in other cities and other boards, why not here? CLOSE ST PAULS AND REBUILD ASSUMPTION Assumption is a very dated school. It would make more sense to rebuild and rebrand that to a magnet school. I am not sure why the board lacks creativity in this and why the consultation wasn't done with parents, community members, church members in 2014 when the funding became available in the first place. The plans are short sighted, hurried, not very creative and really divisive to the school communities who feel that their voices are not being heard.</p> |
| <p>277267<br/>290142</p> | <p>Not sure that I like anything about it.</p> | <p>If the plan is to close St. John's School and have those pupils attend St. Paul's while renovations are ongoing: Portables: I assume portables will need to be in place to "house" the influx of extra students; if this is the case, portables need to be in decent condition and fully functioning (i.e. windows and doors in working order; air conditioning or heating sources working and operational; due to the size of portables, if air conditioning</p> | <p>Get experienced people, always over-estimate dates and make sure you get a board of parents and teachers to help out in providing feedback for transition and new renovation of the school. After all it will be the teachers and parents who have to move and/or go into portables and eventually, a newly renovated school.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

Burlington Southwest of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

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|  | <p>and/or heating units are not functioning properly, they will heat up or cool down in a matter of minutes; the School Board needs to ensure that students can be moved to an alternate location if this happens and as well, have a maintenance company that is able to respond to repairs right away); there needs to be some common sense consensus as to how many children can fit into a portable (we don't want a situation where students are being over-packed into a portable, especially if student and teachers will be there long-term; Playground area: I believe St. Paul's does not have much of a playground area; an area is "play" or spend time on lunch breaks is crucial to the students; I note that St. Paul's backs onto Assumption Highschool; discussions need to take place with Assumption for the use of some of their property to be used as "playground" space while renovations are ongoing; Disabilities/Accommodations: the schools need to ensure that arrangements are made well in advance for those students who require accommodations; the parents of those students should be given a tour of the school, what plans are in place for their child (if special transportation is provided, where the drop off and pick ups are), etc. Transportation: if St. John's students were to be shipped to St. Paul's, the School Board needs to find out which students will need to be accommodated by being transported to St. Paul's via bus; there are situations where families have moved into the St. John's area so that their children can walk to school; that is, there are situations where parents leave home early to get to work and in those cases, their children have to walk to school; however, some of these children are young and while a walk to St. John's is bearable and safe, a walk to St. Paul's would be too far (especially in winter); Start Time: there has to be a consensus on start time of school and end time; I believe that St. John's starts earlier and that they finish earlier; for most parents at St. John's I believe the early start time is better as it fits more in with their work schedule; in my case, I will have xxx children going to Assumption as of next year and xxx child going to St. John's; I will be dropping off my xxx kids at the latest 8:15pm; I can't</p> |
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Burlington Southwest of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

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|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|        |                                                                             | <p>have my other young child being dropped off at St. Paul's at that time; it's more of a concern during the winter months; Teachers: parents should be given an opportunity to find out what are happening to their teachers; New Building: if renovations are being done to St. John's, it would be nice for parents to see a plan of it to get an idea of what their child's new school will look like; the School Board needs to make smart decisions with the renovations - build a school big enough to be able to accommodate student's from both schools, in addition to accommodating extra students should they enroll; they should make sure that they've done their homework (visit other schools to see the pros and cons of their various set-ups). ensure the gym area is big enough, enough washrooms, classroom sizes big enough, teachers' lunch room is big enough; still sufficient space for a playground that will potentially have to "house" twice as many kids; enough parking area for both the church and parents bringing their children to school. If the School Board does not get the new renovations or portable setups right, they likely will see parents pulling their children from both schools and going elsewhere. This in turn could affect the local community as well - parents leaving to other areas so their children can attend schools in those areas.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 261328 |                                                                             | <p>I think it will be disruptive moving to one school to another before and after renovations. I believe the sense of community both schools have will be jeopardized. The culture that currently exist within the separate schools will be lost.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>Leave the schools as they are and revisit boundaries to gradually broaden the area over time with the plan to eliminate a school in XX amount of years. Renovations could take place over this time.</p> |
| 277333 | <p>I don't like the idea at all</p> <p>Comment 2: I don't like the idea</p> | <p>Parking lot safety. Too many kids in one school</p> <p>Comment 2: I do not wish to see St. John students having to attend a different school in portables. I also don't wish to see larger class sizes. The less kids in a class the better for learning. I'm considering changing my child from the Catholic to the Public school. And if I do that he will remain in public school until grade 12</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>Don't do it. I do not want to see students in portables during renovations</p> <p>Comment: None that I can think of other than scrap that plan and come up with a better one.</p>                        |

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| 261032 | I don't know what plan is, I thought options would be provided                                                                                                                                                            | Who will be redirected? St. John's is our local school. I will not buy new uniforms ... McCarthys is terrible and I will not buy new created uniforms for my daughter last 2 years                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Unsure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 276819 | They will stay with St John School                                                                                                                                                                                        | Transportation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Provide transportation, broaden area of transportation accommodation.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 261616 | Nothing                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Short sighted                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | School administrators need to do some work for a change and come up with innovative ideas to meet current challenges or get out of the way for those who can.                                                                                                                      |
| 288760 | Nothing. It is quick sighted and not thought out or consulted properly. It shows the lack of planning and creativity from the boards leadership.                                                                          | Lack of community within the school as the region it serves grows. Lose the whole purpose of the parish based catholicity of our schools... if it is just about cramming bodies into buildings then my community public school suddenly becomes a better option. Our leaders also need to open eyes and see that this is a step the province is using to eliminate the Catholic system all together.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Our principals and superintendents are not qualified to make these calls. They are basically talking heads offering no solutions or options... they want the easy route and have fallen for the small carrot the province is offering. Bring in experts and think outside the box! |
| 260992 | <p>That St. John will remain open. The addition makes sense as there is plenty of room on the site.</p> <p>Comment 2: I like that St. John will remain open, but that is the only thing that it good about this plan.</p> | <p>What happens while the addition is being built? Parking lot is already very congested.</p> <p>Comment 2: We have XXX children at St. John and one of the things that we love about the school is that it is a small school. The kids all know each other and each other's siblings. The parents all know each other. There is a great sense of community here. Our children feel safe and welcome at school because they know everyone - staff and students. Mrs. Browne knows each child by name and takes the time to talk with them. All of this will be lost if the two schools come together to create one larger student population. It will change the dynamic of the school, for the worse. As for the closure of St. Paul, I think that not having a Catholic school in that area is a bad idea. In a time when Catholic education is already in danger, limiting availability to Catholic schools is a bad thing. Parents will opt to send their children to a public school in the neighbourhood rather than have them bused to a Catholic school out of neighbourhood.</p> | Leave things alone for now.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 290334 | Not sure i like anything about it.                                                                                                                                                                                        | Too many kids. Class sizes may be too big.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Keep the schools the way they are.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |



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| 261089 | Updated school                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Parking lot issues, larger class sizes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Hire more staff to ensure safety of children and have a better chance to succeed academically with more support available. Do not increase number of students per classroom.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 287729 | Its not that I like or dislike the plan. The facts are the facts as i see it. The board has staff who have done their research and due diligence and something needs to change. If this is what the board feels the best decision is, based on their research (which angry parents have not done) then I am okay with it. | I would just like reassurance that communication will be ongoing. I have one child in grade XXX and one in XXX next year. I would like reassurance that busing times and locations will be communicated to plan in advance for before and after school care, also, are we guaranteed that our children will be accommodated as far as YMCA before and after school care?                                                                          | Parents will complain until they are blue in the face. My husband and I attended the consultation at Assumption and were appalled at some of the parents conduct. We trust that you have our children's best interests at heart, and I wish more parents would trust in that too.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 290187 | I don't think it can work in such a small space. The school grounds/parking cannot accommodate the additional children                                                                                                                                                                                                    | There is no implementation plan. There is no visibility into how the challenges can be addressed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 261598 | The opportunity to make new friends due to the small number of students at my children's school...its very cliquey and we are new to the school. The potential for increase is extra curriculum activities due to increased budgets.                                                                                      | The ability to walk home due to the unknown location of the new school. I am looking to purchase a new home and now I have no idea where to look as I would want my kids to be able to walk home.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Just inform us of where the new location is so that people can get used to the idea of location and travel time for their children                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 276243 | Mitigates the low student population and increases the number of students at the school. Eliminates what is currently going on in my son's class where there are 34 students (predominantly boys).                                                                                                                        | Parents not seeing the big picture and being able to understand the positives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | More communication about benefits to the students learning.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 261291 | I have read the report/recommendations and have not seen anything cited that would be a positive result of this amalgamation. Would the children have access to better resources, additional programs, updated technology?                                                                                                | Schools that have a strong sense of community, where the teachers and principal know the students by name and have relationships with the parents would be lost as a result of this proposal. I see a school that would be crowded, possibly requiring portables, a school (St. Johns) that is already seriously challenged in terms of parking, pickup and drop off becoming even more burdened with a large increase to the student population. | My first suggestion would be to change the borders for each of the schools, in order to minimize the number of children and schools affected. Children from the St. Raphael's west border could be shifted to St. Pauls and so on. Should this proposal proceed, there needs to be consideration of the parking situation at St. John's school. In addition, the size of the playground would be affected by an addition to the school and portables. This wouldn't be acceptable for a school of the proposed size. I believe the Catholic board should consider introducing early French Immersion programming. The public schools in the area are overcrowded which means that the problems of low enrolment at St. Johns/St. Pauls are not due to declining population. I would feel more comfortable sending my children to a Catholic school knowing that the board is progressive and that my children would have the same opportunities as those in the public stream. |



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| 277571 | Proposed updated facilities at St. John School.                                                             | Transportation, everyone fitting in even with the renovations, large enough space for all students to play outdoors, ie. renovations taking up most of the outdoor play area. Also, its already hard to find parking when a "all school" activity is happening or a combined school/church function occurs. What happens when the student population is double in size? I don't believe there is increased parking area built into the renovations. | Take time to look at further options and possibly delay the process until the beginning of the 2017-18 school year as opposed to the school year starting in 2016-17.                       |
| 260948 | Giving my kids the chance to have more friends and a more centralized school with better amenities for all. | Short term problems with the closing of St Johns for a year. Nothing to really complain about.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Im all for it. St Johns is already our primary school so I have no problem with it.                                                                                                         |
| 290350 | Increased resources and opportunities in a consolidated school.                                             | The consolidation process during the transition. Ensuring both school populations feel their concerns are addressed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Making the transition as simple as possible. Busing kids, showing the positive impact immediately (new clubs, sports teams, band/orchestra?). Demonstrate the new opportunities from day 1. |
| 261279 | Comment 2: I love it, go for it!!                                                                           | St. John's has a uniform - I would like to see the uniform still worn by the children. Currently the kids walk across the St. John parking lot to attend church - which is very convenient. The school and church are located right beside each other.<br><br>Comment 2: none, it is whats best for the children and the school board.                                                                                                              | Where would the new location be? How would the children get there, more children would need to be bused?<br><br>Comment 2: Get the children involved/volunteer. i.e. planting new trees     |
| 290224 | Nothing.                                                                                                    | More children per class and less attention to detail with each child. Less 'family' feel to the school with teachers, administration and children                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Leave it as it is                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 277222 | Close St Paul and redirect the entire student population to St John.                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Abstain                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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| 261649 | nothing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | large school population, less personalization and relationship with students, concerned about the level of bullying that may occur and not be identified due to size of school, travel for the kids on buses, decreased community feel, students will have larger class sizes and less 1:1 attention. I understand students have left St. John's due to bullying and came to St. Pauls so this is a huge concern. My child will not be affected but I think that it would be very sad to decrease the number of schools in the south west. I understand that the population has changed and there are less students, but I purchased my house and the area because we were close to the schools. And it is not fair to the residents living south west to have to bus all their kids now. |
| 277191 | I do not like the plan my xxx boys left St John to go to St Paul because St John is a very bad school I will not send my boys back there . There are teachers that don't teach and there are bully teachers there and my boys were getting bullied and nothing was done about it. I will not send my boys back they don't want to go back they are very happy at St Paul there were other families that left St John for the same reason. If this dose happen I will send my boys to a public school and many of the other parents will do the same then eventually sooner or later all Catholics school will be shutting down , or I just wont send my boys back to school till it is time for them to go to high school. I will have then take courses online or we will figure something out but I will not be sending them back to that horrific school . We need to save St Paul school the teachers there are the best ever they care and they teach . | There wont be any challenges my boys wont be going there bad plan. Yes SAVE ST PAUL !                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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| 261658 | <p>I DO NOT LIKE THAT WHOLE SITUATION I WILL NOT MAKE MY CHILD DRIVE 1-2 HOURS EACH DAY ON A BUS I WILL EITHER MOVE MY CHILD TO A PUBLIC SCHOOL AND TAKE MY TAXES ELSEWHERE OR MOVE TO WHERE THERE IS A BETTER CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN THE CITY OR BETTER YET MOVE OUT OF BURLINGTON AND COMPLETELY TAKE MY TAXES ELSEWHERE.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>I SEE THAT A BUNCH OF PEOPLE WITHOUT ANY EXPERIENCE OR FORETHOUGHT ARE IN CHARGE, THEY SHOULD ELIMINATE THE TRUSTEES ALL TOGETHER THEY DO NOT SERVE ANY PURPOSE IN OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM THEY ARE JUST A DRAIN ON OUR TAXES. YOU WILL MOVE ALL THESE KIDS TO ONE SCHOOL, THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON DROP OFF AND PICK UP WILL BE A CHALLENGE BECAUSE YOU WILL HAVE AN INFLUX OF CARS/PEOPLE CREATING SUCH A TRAFFIC THAT THESE PEOPLE DID NOT THINK ABOUT. BIGGER CLASS ROOMS, LESS TEACHERS, THAT IS NOT A GREAT RECIPE FOR OUR KIDS EDUCATION.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>YES, LEAVE ST.PAUL WHERE IT IS. IN FEW YEARS ONCE THE AREA DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES AND MORE FAMILIES WITH KIDS MOVE INTO THE AREA, YOU WILL HAVE TO OPEN SCHOOLS AND NOT CLOSE, AGAIN NO FORETHOUGHT WHATSOEVER. BUT LIKE I SAID I WILL TAKE MY TAXES ELSEWHERE WHEY THEY WILL BE APPRECIATED. THANK YOU.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 261671 | <p>I disagree with the the entire proposal. If things are not broken than why fix it !! I do not see how my children (grades XXX and XXX) would benefit from it. I believe you will lose several children with this move. I have personal spoken to several parents already and many have already decided that if our school closes then they will switch to the Public School system. If this happens then you would have rebuilt St John's for no reason as the number of kids would still be low and you will also lose the tax payers support.</p> <p>Comment 2: Nothing</p> | <p>Some personal challenges would be that I do not feel comfortable putting my children on a bus</p> <p>Comment 2: In the Board Meeting report/proposal it stated a total of 266 students from St Paul's school would be transferred to St John's by 2018. My question is was a study completed asking if St Paul's school closes would the parents agree to have their children transferred to St John's or would they consider other options (like the Public School System)? Why is the report assuming that all 266 students would go to St. John's?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>St Pauls has more acreage and green space than St John's. would it not be more suitable to rebuild St Pauls. We have the larger lot, the nature trails, the use of the track, the park and we are located on a less busier street.</p> <p>Comment 2: Leave all school open and if a merger must occur then merge to 2 closest schools (St Raphael and St Paul).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 261293 | <p>Fuller classrooms, more students means kids are more likely to find 'good' friends rather than being with limited kids, economies of scale achieved through properly sized schools.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>Reducing South Burlington to 2 elementary schools makes accessibility difficult for many students. While bus transportation works, it prevents some kids from being able to take advantage of before and after school programs. A lack of a third centrally located school in South Burlington means some students will no longer be able to try out for teams and clubs, or stay after school to get extra help like my son does in the math club. This creates an environment where student success is impacted, which I assume is not what the board is looking for. I am also concerned with the impact of selling land from closed schools. Many of the neighborhoods in these areas have owners who have been there for a long time. My mom, a separate school supporter, lives in the same house I grew up in, although I have been out of the school system for 20 years. Many of the friends I grew up with have parents that are in</p> | <p>A third centrally located school needs to be considered to handle overflow. A properly prepared plan, including Holy Rosary, would allow for the following Assumption feeder schools: Holy Rosary St John St Raphael / St Paul Hybrid Ascension / St Patrick Hybrid As Aldershot continues to expand west, a strain will be put on Holy Rosary. Moving children from the eastern area near St Phillipe towards St Johns could help, both with the HR capacity issues, and also getting St John to a more appropriate number. A similar approach could be taken with the North Western border of St Paul, which could also go to St John. Consolidaitng the remaining St Paul and St Raphael students into 1 school alleviates some issues. Same for St Patrick / Ascension. This type of plan also addresses the concern of what happens as South Burlington neighbourhoods start to change over in the</p> |

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|        |                                               | similar situations. If these houses are sold to similar separate school families, the currently proposed 2 southern school model will not be sufficient. At that point, 1 of 2 things will happen. Either the new schools will have to use portables to handle the overflow, or land will need to be re-acquired, likely at a significantly higher cost than what it would be sold for.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | next 15 years. As older families retire and sell houses, new families will move in, and not having adequate schools in a reasonable distance will impact the Separate School's ability to attract and retain students.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 265266 | Nothing                                       | Schools are way too far apart. It is too far from St. Paul's students to travel to St. John.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Do not close St. Paul. Keep both schools open.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 261759 | I like that the school will be updated.       | I like the smaller schools for their family atmosphere. The teachers know all of the students and there is a strong sense of responsibility and community. My children will be out of elementary school if this change happens. It will be a big adjustment for the students that are going to a larger amalgamated school.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No suggestions come to mind.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 264387 | I like nothing about the plan.                | I feel that the HCDSB has not taken any interest in the thoughts of the very people who help to fund their existence with our tax dollars. You have implemented a modified review process, and it feels you are "telling" us what you are going to do, rather than working with us to come up with a mutually acceptable solution. I am fearful that the trustee's elected to represent "us" are following the lead of their "employer" and are not "representing" us as they should. The "south" of Burlington is an older community, and people move to the area for the sense of community that does not exist in the north end and within the newer schools. I am fearful that the board will lose enrollment as families will choose to go to the public school system, thereby affecting the amount of money allocated to the board through taxes. | I do not like the plan as it stands now. No consultation was had with the current parents of the affected schools. The plan to move the St. Paul's kids to St. John's makes it difficult for parents commuting, specifically that parents now have to "back-track" and go against the way they are commuting (most work towards Toronto) to drop off the kids. The children are part of the St. Raphael's Parish, and are in close proximity to the church now. As long time parishioners of St. Raphael's (my wife for some xxx yrs, her parents longer) it is comfortable and familiar for the children to continue in this tradition and not have to switch churches to accommodate their schooling. The grounds where St. Paul's is located is attached to the high school - Assumption. St. Paul's is a feeder school to Assumption and it facilitates the transition by having the school so close. If the Assumption is to remain open (should that now be questioned as well?) then there should be no issue with keeping the school open. |
| 261260 | nothing                                       | too many good schools closing - need to keep kids local for growth                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | keep the schools open                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 263550 | New facility with more to offer the children. | Bus vs being driven/walking to school                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | I need to understand more about the proposed plan to answer the question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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| 265592 | No positives about this proposed move. | Both of our children are enrolled into St. Paul's school: - Our kids will not be able to walk or ride bikes to school. This will have a negative impact on their physical health. - By relying on public transit of busing, their safety will be significantly impacted. - Our daughter has a disability but can manage the distance to st. paul but not the alternate proposed school, this will have a significant psychological impact as she will no longer be able to independently get to and from her school. She already has very limited situation where she can be independent. - Both my wife and I commute long distances. The move will add an additional 30 minutes for each in traffic to the already insane time spent (xxx). - Because of our jobs, it will be difficult if not impossible to arrange for emergency pickup or to come to the school right-a-way with the additional distance/traffic. - Larger class sizes will mean, less attention to the academic challenges that our daughter is facing. - Larger school will mean, the safety of getting around from class to class will be significantly reduced for our daughter who has mobility issues. - After school programs typically start shortly after school. We are able to currently get our kids to a few after school programs and then back home to have dinner as a family. The additional time in traffic will limit our kids ability to attend after school programs and reduce their opportunities to develop and grow as productive members of the community. - This will reduce the quality of life for our family, as we will be less likely to have dinners together, go out for walks and really be together. - This will have a negative impact on our kids academic success as we will have less time to spend on homework or to spend additional time on subjects where our kids may be struggling. | 1. Keep both schools open. 2. Merge St. Paul and St. Raphael |
| 290431 | Nothing                                | Transportation - long travel, time, too large - too many kids, lack of opportunities, oversized classroom, safety issues, competing before and after programs, competing for programs and opportunities, inconvenience, drugs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Cancel the plan and leave all alone                          |
| 264939 |                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                              |

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| 290292 | Nothing!!! I am disgusted on how this so called open discussion was done. They did not let anyone express their views fully. Everyone was frustrated, all they wanted to do is for us to look at their plan without caring on anyone's views otherwise. HALTON CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD You call yourself dedicated and understanding people, caring for our kids education, you do not care about our views and the community you only care about the money that was given and fulling your own needs. YOU CALL YOURSELF CATHOLIC????? THE WAY YOU ARE HANDLING THIS IS NOT A CATHOLIC WAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! | THE NUMBER ONE THING IS OUR KIDS WELL BEING AND YOU SEEM TO NOT KNOW WHAT THIS INVOLVES. You only care about the money and your own selfish needs!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! YOU DO NOT EVEN HAVE THE COURAGE TO LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE AND THEIR CONCERNS...                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | The consultation should have been done to the community way ahead of the proposed plan, in order to reflect the feedback in the proposal. No feedback was done. The community was upset and frustrated on how no one was able to express their ideas fully the day of the meeting on March 8th. THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD COULD care less about the communities opinions. This plan will affect a whole lot of people if it goes through the safety and well being of our children is in jeopardy. I pray the outcome will be this proposal will be cancelled for the well being of our children. |
| 261118 | Nothing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | School community. Parish issues.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Don't close st. Paul's                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 261038 | I do not like anything about this proposal. Should this proposal go through I will remove my children from the catholic school system and send them to public school.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | My children will have to travel by bus for over an hour a day which is way too long for my XXX year old. We moved to this area based on the fact that there was a local catholic school. The proposed school is located in a very busy area of Burlington which I dont feel is safe for young children.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Combine St. Paul's school with st Raphael's school which are already located within a short distance from each other.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 261655 | Nothing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | The lot size at St John is not suitable for 500+ students. Portables will eat up any outdoor space because even with the addition of 4-6 classrooms there will not be enough space in the school to accommodate all these kids - that is unless you are going to increase all the class sizes (once again another negative for our children) The requirement of a transition year where 2 schools will operate separately on one site will only cause confusion and animosity amongst the kids from the 2 different schools. Pick up an drop off is already an issue with only one school in operation. Many people will pull their kids from the Catholic system and enroll their children in the Public system where they have options of schools much closer to home. This will have a negative impact on the future of Catholic Education. | Waiting it out. There is no guarantee that the numbers will decrease enough to warrant this amalgamation. If they do go down to the point were the schools can no longer provide the kids with the proper programing / extracurriculars then you will have my vote and i am sure the vote of most parents to amalgamate at that point. The funding NOW will not be an issue because with numbers so low as you predict there no longer be a need for renovations/additions, or a transition year. Simply have students join the other school.                                                     |
| 290213 | Nothing I think the plan is all based on funding and nothing about students & community. I do not think that anyone will benifit from this plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | I see a lot of challenges. St. John is in a horrible area there is no green space for outside play or learning. The whole set up of the school sucks buses load and unload on a curb on a very busy street. I moved into the community so that my kids can walk to school and now the potential of them being bused makes me mad/upset. What happens to a single mom on a day where                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Please see other comments in previous question Also is the board prepared to lose most of the enrollment at St. Paul's school to the public school system. I have talked to a lot of parents and if you decide to close St. Paul's school they/we will be removing our kids from the Halton Catholic board. If you decide to keep St. Paul's open and have a proper plan to                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

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|        | <p>busses are canceled ? How will they get to school ? I can't take time off during the winter like that and they are not old enough to say home alone. St. Paul's would be a better site to combined the schools there is plenty of space to do the addition to accommodate St. John students. The learning environment at St. Paul's is amazing and they are able to meet the learning needs of my kids. With the idea of this "super school" the board what's to do the students with learning challenges, lagging skills etc will be lost in a big "super school" they will fall through the cracks. But it seems like the board doesn't seem to care about the students in this plan. There are no talks of getting the 2 schools comfortable with the idea of a merge. Where is the plan that involves the kids / parents coming together and getting to know each other. The plan to start blending the students. Family game night for both schools together. Getting the schools together for an assembly each month. School trips together ? All I hear is that the board is in a big rush to move kids to a different school and housed in portables. The idea of having all the students and teachers in one school operating as 2 different schools is the craziest thing. What benefits would come out of that?</p> | <p>merge the 2 schools together parents like me would keep our kids at St. Paul's. Please make the right choice and keep St. Paul's open. I cannot express how amazing the staff and students are. My boys have made so many gains at St. Paul's since we moved from a nearby school board and the reason we made the choice to move was because the school system was failing my boys. They were slipping through the cracks because of the size of the school and the class sizes. My boys get proper programming at St Pauls for their specific learning needs. Making a "super school" all this will be lost. Also they will be so disappointed that they cannot walk to school anymore. They just recently started taking on more responsibility and walking to school alone. You wil be taking that away from them and they have worked hard to earn that responsibility. Please think of the kids find another way to cut money else where.</p> |
| 262175 | <p>There are so many challenges with moving St. Paul's to Brant St. St. Paul's is a community, you are asking our community to move far away from where our children are building relationships. The fact that my children can walk to a school where the teachers know them had a huge impact on why we moved to this area. My children thrive in a school that the teachers notice if they have been absent and care to say hello to them by name. This will be lost in a school of 500+ kids. I'm concerned about the safely of my kids going to school in a main, already congested street that Brant already is. How is this going to affect the downtown area? What is going to happen to the property value of my home of the school is shut down? Families are moving to our neighborhood constantly and want their children be close to a school a church. The fact is that people</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Build a new/ renovation on St.Pauls and combine St.Pauls and St. Raphaels. That way we can keep our church community together and the schools and your numbers will be sufficient</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |



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|        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | are not retiring to single family homes. Please consider your votes when deciding to move 300+ Children and a community.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 264963 | What i like best about the proposed plan is the fact that the children of St. Paul will still be with their friends and siblings with the proposed plan. This will help reduce any anxiety the children might have about the change.                                                                                                           | The major challenge i see with this plan is on transportation. Walkers to St. Paul might not be able to walk to st. John because of the distance so more children will have to ride on the school bus. Also some children that were eligible to ride on the bus because of the proximity of their homes to st. Paul might be ineligible now because of the distance from their homes to st. Johns. This might pose a logistic problem for parents or guardians in getting their children to st. John. Another challenge might be unemployment for the teachers and principal at st. Paul if there is no plan to get them involved in St. John or other CES in Burlington | A suggestion to improve the proposed plan will be to make sure that all those currently eligible for the school bus to St. Paul remain eligible for the school bus to St. John Another suggestion will be to look at rerouting the current school buses and getting more buses to cater to the children that are eligible                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 261401 | I do not like anything about this proposed plan. It is not well thought out or in the best interests of our children in any way.                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Busing almost an entire population of St. Paul's downtown giving them new ability to walk or ride bikes to school -The added cost of busing these children as well as transition costs renovations etc. could be used to improve our current schools - The prop                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Any plan going forward for mount the meeting of the schools should be well thought out and the school between Appleby line and Brant St. should be on the agenda. St. Paul School lot is an ideal location for any kind of renovated structure as it's adjacent to the high school, backs onto green space/bike path, shares a state-of-the-art football field/track and is beside a park with additional green space and play ground. Recommend and lot size in the proposal of being 5 acres St. Paul's 4.7 acres comes much closer to that number than St. John's 1.9. |
| 261693 | Nothing! It makes no sense to move 500 students to a school on the busiest street in Burlington? St. Paul's has a much bigger play area not to mention the use of a multi million dollar field at Assumption high school, green space and a play park! I'm thinking maybe St.Johns Church might be pulling some strings in the Schhol board??? | How many students will be leaving the Catholic school board for the public! I will present names address of all the families on March 8th who as much as we would love to keep our children in the Catholic board refuse to bus our kids to Brant street for their education....we will do our Catholic teaching at home and through St.Rapeals church                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Keep St.John where it is and have St. Rapheal and or St.Paul be the schools for this area....so our kids can still walk, ride to school....and not have 20 busses and the pollution that would bring to the busiest street in Burlington?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 277420 | I do not currently see the benefits of the proposed plan, other than the Board being able                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 260975 | I totally get the need for the schools/board to be financially responsible. And at time mergers may be necessary. However, I have serious concerns with the proposal for the mergers of                                                                                                                                                        | I have two main concerns: I think it is unrealistic for children (especially young ones, or children, like my son who have trouble sitting still for any length of time) to be sitting on a bus for as long as one hour every day . Even 30 minutes would be                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | If a merge is needed, find a different location altogether (preferably not on a busy street), with adequate play space that's more central to both areas. Or downsize both schools and find a way to utilize the extra space.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |



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| <p>St. Paul and St. John schools.</p> <p>Comment 2: I've previously submitted feedback. But after viewing the information emailed today about the proposal and meeting agenda wanted to send more feedback. Yes, the plans for the new school look modern, updated /aesthetically pleasing with all it's new facilities. But a fancy building and more resources don't necessarily make a great school. Our school, with it's "limited" resources is already perfect for us! The small community of teachers, staff and parents work well together to support our children. We don't need a fancy new school....we need OUR existing school!</p> <p>Comment 3: Filled out before, but want to voice my main concerns again as it does not seem our feedback is being seriously considered and there are no answers to our questions.</p> | <p>difficult for some kids on a daily basis. My second concern, which frankly is my most significant, is the size of the lot at St. John. I drove by the other day to take a look as I wasn't that familiar with it. The first thought I had was that the lot/play space seemed barely adequate for the number of students at St. John. I tried to picture the addition of 270 more kids, and it seemed to me they would be packed in like sardines. How are kids supposed to get a soccer or football game going - activities that require a decent amount of green space? My kids like to run around and play. My son especially needs that active time to release energy and help him focus at school work. With that many kids in the playground area I don't see how this will be possible. Again, aren't we trying to promote active kids? Reducing play space does not accomplish this! The parking will also be a nightmare. More cars, already a busy street, with another school across the street. Mornings and after school pick up will be insane. I have several other concerns, which I will express in a letter to the trustees.</p> <p>Comment 2: Here is the email I sent to my ward 4 trustee: Plus additional feedback regarding updated information sent to us this evening about the ride expected to be no longer than 30 minutes - it's still too long to be SITTING for an hour every day. Dear Mrs. Trites, I get the need for the schools/board to be financially responsible. And at times amalgamations may be necessary. However, I have serious concerns with the proposal for the merger of St. Paul and St. John schools. Distance: I think it is unrealistic for children (especially young ones, or children, like my son who have trouble sitting still for any length of time) to be sitting on a bus for as long as one hour (up to two hours both ways) every day!!! Kids today get less exercise and outdoor time than the generations before, and this change would eliminate the possibility for most kids to walk to school. My kids love to play with their friends in the park area and school playground after school. If kids now have to adhere to a bus schedule this takes away that time! Even if I drive my kids</p> | <p>Comment 2: Keep our small community schools. Rework your projections! According to our city councilor as older populations sell their homes in this area, younger families with kids are expected to move in. This has already happened on our street, where retirees have moved out, and families with kids moved in. South Burlington is a popular area with families wanting to move here.</p> <p>Comment 3: Look for a new lot that can accommodate us adequately. Sending my feedback through multiple venues to increase our chances of being heard and understood!</p> |
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|  | <p>to school, many of their friends will likely have to take the bus. "Playing" after school with friends is one of the things my kids look forward to everyday. Facilities: My second concern is the size of the lot at St. John. I drove by a few weeks ago to take a look as I wasn't that familiar with it. The first thought I had was that the play space seemed just adequate for the number of students at St. John. I tried to visualize the addition of 270 kids, and it seemed to me they would be packed in and crowded! How are kids supposed to get a soccer or football game going - activities that require a decent amount of green space? My son needs that active time to release energy and help him focus at school work. He needs to run around and play! With that many kids in the playground area I don't see how this will be possible. Aren't we trying to promote active kids? Reducing play space does not accomplish this! Kids at St. Paul sometimes go for walks through the park and green space in the neighbourhood for gym or other activities. This helps kids develop an appreciation for, connect with and learn to respect nature. This would no longer be available so easily to them during school time if this change goes through. Parking! Both lots seem at capacity now with drop off and pick ups. If you add another 270 students to St. John, that's more parents dropping off and picking up kids. How is this going to be addressed? Not to mention, it is a busy commercial area, with another public and high school across the street! I can see traffic and parking being a chaotic nightmare. Staff: My kids have been fortunate to have some really good teachers, principals and staff at St. Paul. Yes we are adults, and things happen - we sometimes have no choice but to accept and move on. But there are some great people there who are devoted to the kids and passionate about their jobs. I'm not sure what the plan is for the staff should this go through, but I feel it would be a shame to lose some exceptional educators and staff through this process. Suggestions: Keep things as they are! If your projections on enrolment are correct, then you can always downsize the schools and find a way to utilize the additional space. There are</p> |
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a couple of teachers that will be retiring in the next year or so, if you don't need to replace them, then don't. If there is extra space I'm sure Assumption, as it's right next door, could use it. Also my daughter has who she refers to as her "reading teacher". A student from Assumption that assists with helping the students at St. Paul. There have been other high school students over the years that have assisted in other capacities as well. This is a great experience for Assumption students and for St. Paul students, which is only available because of the proximity of the two schools. This program, which I feel is beneficial would no longer be an option if this merger took place! If you must amalgamate - look for a more central location! Merge St. Paul and St Raphael and rework boundary lines if necessary. My bottom line, if you're going to do it - do it right! Make it better than before - don't take a step back when there are other options. Especially when kids are involved. I feel that there are significant concerns with this proposal and truly hope that you, along with the other trustees, will seriously consider the feedback from parents and students, and the impact this will have on us should it go through. It's not always just about the money! Thank you for taking the time to consider my feedback. XXX

Comment 3: See email sent to all trustees and Jack Dennison. Just an update to my email below. One of my kids was sick today, and I had to pick my other child up early from school, we decided to drive by the St. John lot to take a look at the current situation at dismissal time. We arrived early 2:40pm, 20 minutes early, and the church lot was already mostly full. We got a spot in the back row (backing onto Blairholm Ave. Our observations: - The lot was completely full shortly after we arrived (within 5 minutes). - Parents were parked along the fenced laneway. - Some parents parked along Courtland Dr and some behind us on Blairholm Ave. - I spoke to the lady who was parked right beside us and asked her what parking is usually like. She said the lot is always full and parking is already a

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challenge. She also noted that when there is snow it's even worse. So, double the number of vehicles (possible more than double with parents/current walkers opting not to bus) and you can see why my concerns below deserve serious consideration. Our parking lot at St. Paul is already full at pick up times with many parents parking in spots not allocated for parking or along the laneway. And the lot is only for parents as teachers/staff park on the other side of the building. Move this population to St. John and surely you can see concerns for safety. This lot is inadequate for play space, organized sports and parking already! And the plan is to double the number of students? Seriously? Please, if you have the opportunity go by and take a look for yourselves at dismissal time. Then tell me where we are supposed to park! And how 550+ kids will play in the existing playground (which will be even smaller once the renovation is completed). And where organized outdoor sports will be played? Thanks! XXX -----

----- From: XXX [mailto:XXX] Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 1:32 PM To: 'michaelj@hcdsb.org'; 'iantomasia@hcdsb.org'; 'tritess@hcdsb.org'; 'rowem@hcdsb.org'; 'rabendad@hcdsb.org'; 'dankoa@hcdsb.org'; 'karabelah@hcdsb.org'; 'maraip@hcdsb.org'; 'anthonyquinn@hcdsb.org' Cc: 'jack.dennison@burlington.ca' Subject: Burlington Southwest Pupil Accommodation Review Importance: High To our Trustees, Regarding the amalgamation of St. Paul school with St. John. Please! Don't cram more kids onto an already inadequate site for the number of students currently there. You CANNOT expect 500+ kids to be limited to the play space available at St. John. This site is only 1.96 acres....well under the ideal 5+ acres! Once the addition is complete the play space will be even smaller. Not to mention portables will be needed for a couple of years, further reducing space. How can this be seriously considered???? Kids need an adequate space to play and run, with a decent amount of green space! In an age when most kids don't get enough physical exercise downsizing play

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|  | <p>space should not be an option! Where are outdoor sports supposed to be played? Many kids at our school (St. Paul) play soccer, football and other games during lunch, recess and after school. Many are on school teams. They have use of the Assumption track. Where is the soccer team supposed to play? And when our kids are involved in Track and Field and Cross Country, where are they supposed to run? There are NO OPTIONS at this site! Shouldn't we be encouraging a healthy lifestyle for our kids? We also want our kids to develop an appreciation for the outdoors and nature. Limiting green space does not accomplish this. Not to mention that there is absolutely NO parking at St John! How can you send us to a school with no parking? Do you really think it is feasible to use the church parking lot? Speaking with a St, Johns parent they say that many time they have to park on the road to pick their kids up. How are you going to double the student population and manage the parking nightmare! This is not only an insane option, but it is a SAFETY ISSUE! This is a busy main street with two public schools right across the road. This will create more traffic that the school/church/area cannot handle. Am I expected to park in the plaza two blocks away and walk to pick up my kids? Then walk them back down a busy road with parents scrambling to find a place to park to pick up their children? (Note: I choose not to bus my kids and other parents I've spoken to that currently drop off and pick up their kids plan to continue to do so as well. In addition, some current "walkers" will now be forced to drive their kids as they also do not want to bus for various reasons). I have purposely driven by the St. John lot several times recently, and the church parking lot has been nearly full on most days, and this is not during pick up and drop off times. What happens when there is a funeral or mass going on at the church? The congestion that will be created due to the limited parking options and limited space in this area is an accident waiting to happen. I have other issues with this "plan" that I have already communicated via the online feedback and at the parent meeting, but the two issues</p> |
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|        |                                                                                                    | above by far are the most important as they involve the health, well being and safety of our children. If you must consolidate, please, find a better location with adequate space, parking and traffic flow. I am very concerned about the safety of my children, as well as the other children who will be attending if this goes through. Not enough space for kids to play and organize sports is not a healthy option. The fact that there is zero parking for the school in a busy area with small lot creates major safety issues. Please VOTE NO to this in April, and if you must close schools find a better location. Thank you for your consideration of these important concerns. XXX                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 261181 | I didn't see any best idea in this proposed plan                                                   | It's a big change for us since all my kids are just walkers going to school and I don't drive at all.its very convenient for the whole family to live closeby to school.its gonna be a big transition to my kids and the whole family.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | For me I want to keep both schools                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 276894 |                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 265146 | Comment 2: I do not like or agree with an aspect of the proposed plan for Burlington Southwest QEW | <p>Long list. Overcrowded schools. My daughter having to adjust to a new environment. St Johns being on a busy street. Losing that amazing park space around St Pauls Stuffing kids in unhealthy portables. Giving our children the impression that education is not important to society by closing down a school</p> <p>Comment 2: Parents don't want to uproot their children a school community is that is working perfectly well for them. No one wants to move our kids from a quiet safe area to one of the busiest streets in downtown Burlington. Many families will choose to place their children in closer Public school rather than have to deal with a far commute and more uniforms. No one wants to buy yet another set school uniforms.</p> | <p>Keep St Paul's open.</p> <p>Comment 2: Put St. Johns students in St. Paul's, it has more room for expansion and is also right next to Assumption. Leave each school as it is currently and hold back on some improvements. Try different fundraising initiatives.</p>                                                                                                         |
| 261138 | I do not like this plan at all.                                                                    | The challenges I see are the pupil accommodation for the new students. These students will have a sense of loss, losing their school family. I also see a challenge in transportation. Now some students may have to travel much further to get to school, where travel time may take an hour our more to get to school. I see a challenge in overpopulation and having to use portables to accommodate all the new students. I see a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | I do not see why the school's need to close. We are living in one of the best cities in Canada and we want to make our children travel an hour to get to school. To classroom sizes where they are lost in the crowd. Where they have lost the connection of the teacher, of a family oriented environment for learning. Why are we making the classroom into a production line? |

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|        |                                                                | challenge in classroom sizes being too big and students being lost in the crowd.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 261053 | I do NOT like the proposed plan to amalgamate the two schools! | Children who normally walk to school, having to start taking a bus. Children having to adjust to a new school community. Children not getting exercise by walking to school. Losing a close knit school community where all children are known by every staff member and principal. Going to school in a busy downtown area with NO green space. Halton catholic district school board losing many students to the neighbouring public school in a time where the future of Catholic education is uncertain.                                                                            | Leave students where they are!!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 290185 |                                                                | Traffic, safety,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | I believe that St. Paul should not be closed down. Instead, it should be the retained school because of its proximity to secondary school, safety issues for traffic, a quiet zone conducive for learning, and much better ground, with a very warming and silent community.                                            |
| 261164 | Nothing                                                        | More Bussing, less walking. Busier downtown, Brant Street is a busy Street. more school buses/more traffic - limited parking Limited outdoor space for 500 children Less identity for Children, larger class sizes. Teachers may not know all children in a larger school population. Less opportunity to participate in school sports and extracurricular activities. More competition to obtain spots on teams. feeling of "community" will be lost due to size. We may lose the fabulous teachers and Principal we have at St. Pauls Will lose students to the public school system. | Leave St. Johns alone. Renovate St. Pauls - St. Pauls parish is St. Raphaels, if schools need to consolidate bring these two schools together at St. Pauls, far more land available at St. Pauls to rebuild or renovate. Leave St. Pauls population as is. Update School.                                               |
| 265940 | Absolutely nothing!!!                                          | I would hate to see families leaving the catholic school system, along with their tax dollars, but I have spoken to many who will switch to a public school to be in their own community. This would be devastating to our catholic system in south Burlington. Sadly, when the elementary students leave our board, it is that much harder to get them to attend assumption. The lack of green space!!! Leaving a community I was raised in and CHOSE to raise my family in. Most of our population having                                                                             | Leave the schools as they are. We have a very large aging population which is downsizing. There is a large senior condo building being built right at Cumberland and New street. When that opens next year, the seniors will be selling their homes and families will be moving in. A little patience is all I ask for. |

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|        |           | to be bussed - how much will that cost????? Overcrowding - portables may be needed even after renovations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                               |
| 277401 | Nothing.  | The Burlington Southwest QEW area is approximately 20% young families. The community is experiencing a turnover of new young families that will only continue; therefore the need for St. Paul and St. Raphael's will increase in the very near future. We currently walk to school, which promotes a healthier lifestyle; saves the board money by not having to be bussed; and is better for the environment. If a school must be closed, the St. Paul property is larger and is in very close proximity to the high school and parkland. Would it not make more sense to expand/renovate St. Paul? The school is also located on a quiet side street making it safer for students during the drop off/pick up periods. Increasing the student population of St. John will only add to the congestion before and after school on an already busy road. Closing the only two schools (St. Paul and St. Raphael) that are part of St. Raphael's parish will have a negative impact on the parish. | Do not close St. Paul. If a school must be closed, closing St. John is a more logical option. |
| 277535 |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                               |
| 261641 | Nothing   | Travel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Keep them open                                                                                |
| 261264 | Nothing.. | More students in each class. Less student- teacher one on one time. Parents in our community like that we have small schools. It's easier for the children to learn.. Plus the amount of job loss, the teachers this will affect.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Don't do it!!! Leave the schools be!!                                                         |



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| 261309 | Trying to plan for the future of Catholic education with falling student numbers                                                                             | Closing St Paul's and merging it with St John's which is a much smaller site and quite a distance for students in the St Paul's catchment area to travel too is a major concern. Under this proposal the Catholic schools would lose students to the local public schools exacerbating the issue of falling students numbers. I have a number of concerns about the safety and wellbeing of pupils at such a small site and, if students travel by bus how long this will take and how tired they will be. I am also concerned about splitting the reviews especially as the two elementary schools in St Raphael's Parish are not even being reviewed together. Splitting the reviews into southeast and southwest Burlington when St Paul's and St Raphael's have a common border and then making one proposal per review makes these processes look like a fait accompli. It is very disappointing that the board has done this and not surprising so many parents are against these proposals,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Have a full review of all five schools currently in the modified review process. It makes no sense to review them separately as St Raphael's and St Paul's have a common border. If these proposals are accepted there will be no Catholic elementary schools from East of Appleyby Line to Brant Street. Catholic education should be accessible to everyone and the students should be the priority. The parents and parishes should be more involved in the review from the start e.g. you could set up an advisory panel and there should be a few realistic options for the schools affected. This may take more time and cost more money but at least it should take advantage of the opportunity to plan for the future of Catholic elementary education in South Burlington without losing a lot of current and future students to the public school system and keeping schools as accessible as possible. |
| 265597 | Nothing. Closing local schools is not a good idea. Closing two schools in the same parish is a horrible idea. There is nothing good about the proposed plan. | I do not want to lose access to a catholic elementary school that is within walking distance for my children. St. Paul's is a vibrant community school that is a vital part of the neighbourhood. Local children play at the park, walk to school, and participate in school functions. Busing children downtown removes the community from a community school. It also separates the children from their parish of St. Raphael's and instead has them attending services in the unfamiliar parish of St. John. St. Paul School has been a vibrant part of the community for many years. A small school where all staff know the students, and all students know each other is important to facilitate the building of relationships and the roots of children in their catholic parish. Removing both St. Raphael's and St.Paul's schools means that there is a large swath of Burlington where families will not have access to Catholic education. I attended St. Paul as a child and received a valuable education in a small school. I also developed close ties to students, teachers and community members of my parish. I may have grown and left St. Paul, but the lessons and experiences I had there have never left me. I want my children to have the same great opportunity and | Do not close both St. Paul and St. Raphael schools. This will be devastating for the parish of St. Raphael's.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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|        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | education that I received at St. Paul. Large schools for small children are not ideal. Small school communities provide the best, personalized education for small children. Please reconsider and keep St. Paul school open.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 265281 | The only thing I like is that it will be a renovated property. That's it!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | The commute #1. Secondly combining the two schools will cause a much larger school with all its challenges. Larger classrooms, more kids in each classroom. Less time for the teachers to spend one on one with students. Less personal.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | I am not sure how it would make sense to stay at St. John's when downtown Burlington is much busier, less parking, more traffic, longer commutes. St. Pauls is surrounded by a nice suburban community with less chaos and provides a better setting and atmosphere for students. The high school is also next door which will be their next school after grade school. More potential for growth or reno potential at St. Paul's.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 288968 | Though I truly do like a small school and the community of St Paul as it is now, I do see benefit to a larger school community. St Paul is a vibrant community in which many opportunities and initiatives for students are available - it is quite remarkable, actually, for a school of this size. Having said this, more is possible in a larger school community. Given that St Paul school would need some major work in order to be accessible for all and to be a place that can maximize the potential of 21st Century Learning, I understand the reason for the proposal as it is put forth now. I do fear that if this proposal does not become a reality, then down the road St Paul will have to close; if not for declining enrolment then due | The main challenge I see is for the transition year. I am concerned with regard to the placement of portables to allow for an adequate amount of play area. I am concerned about the logistics of running two school communities at this aging site. Will the infrastructure be able to tolerate it? There is the use of washrooms, the availability of wi-fi, and ensuring equitable use of the learning commons and gymnasium. Also, I think it would be important to begin the development of the larger school community from the very beginning. St John school community would need to be welcomed and both schools would need to work together. It will be a challenging undertaking for the | If it is possible or likely that St Paul School will be stressed by housing the St John population, is there an option for St John to go to a different facility for a year? I see a need to come up with a creative solution around the issue of uniforms. If a school community is to be strong, it needs to be united. Having two different uniforms will not unite the student population. My suggestion for this is to create a crest which is large enough to cover both the St Paul and the St John logos on the shirts and to allow this crest to be sewn over top of the current logo. I know that in the HCDSB, all the logos of the shirts are embroidered on to the shirts, but in this case, I think an exemption should be made. I think a certain number of |

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|        | <p>to the age of the building. If this happens, I fear that the current boundary of St Paul will be divided and students will be sent off to which ever school picks up the children from the different areas of the neighbourhood. For this reason, perhaps moving ahead with this proposal will, in fact, save Catholic education in this area, keeping much of the student body of St Paul together while merging with the student body of another good school community. In addition, it has been indicated that the St Paul site would be held for future development for the school board. This could, down the road, mean that there will be land available to expand or rebuild Assumption Catholic School, which is another aging facility. Having a state of the art Catholic secondary school in this neighbourhood would, I feel, strengthen Catholic education in our community.</p> | <p>administration of both schools, but one that I think is very important.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>these, perhaps three, should be given to each child in the school and if families wish to have more, they can be purchased at a nominal fee. Funds to cover this could be raised by the schools during the transition year as part of a community building event. I think these crests should be available the first year only, but should be allowed to be used until a family has outgrown the uniform it is sewn on to. This would satisfy those families who are hoping to hold on to uniforms currently worn by older children to be used by their younger children. I know there have been suggestions from the community made to consolidate St Raphael and St Paul. I would certainly support this, if it leads to a viable and appropriate building structure; but where does that leave St John? Can St John and Holy Rosary be consolidated? I realize this may not be an option, but thought I would voice it.</p> |
| 277402 | <p>Nothing</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>Limiting catholic education, unable to walk to school, increased time away from family on bus, increased school size, removed from family parish of st. rapheals, limited sense of community, increased chance of portables,</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Save one of the central schools, either st. rapheals or st. pauls to accomodate families between guelph line and appleby.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 260999 | <p>I like the idea of new ammenities</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>I see green space as an issue as well as bussing the children to school . I feel the property is too small .</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>I suggest building on the St. Paul 5 acre property , or leave schools as they are but introduce other programs to attract enrollement . Another idea is to perhaps consider at Raphael's and at Paul's</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 261409 | <p>Renovations to upgrade school facilities.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>The review acknowledges some of the issues with the downtown location of St. John school. It's listed as an undersized lot, but doubling the school enrollment is still apparently the best option. The property is a concern, in the downtown core. For those of us that have selected St. Paul as our home school, the property, grass area, parking lot and overall location was a factor in our decision. The school needs upgrading, however the access to the green area and playgrounds should be considered as the property itself is ideal for an elementary school. Money should go into upgrading St. Paul school. The parish communities have not been considered. St. Raphael's may lose both elementary schools, if St. Paul and St. Raphael are closed. What will happen to the youth ministry?</p> | <p>Re-evaluate St. Paul with the St. Raphael's community of schools. We should not be segregated from our church. Consider upgrading St. Paul and creating an up-to-date elementary school, in close proximity to the high school. Parents will value this option, to have their children close to both schools and enrollment will continue to increase.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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|        |                                                                                                               | <p>Will we no longer celebrate reconciliation and first communion? What are the implications to the parish, if the students and their families become part of St. John or St. Patrick parish communities? The Modified Pupil Accommodation Review explains that the children of St. Paul will remain with their classmates during renovations and the move to St. John. Sure, they may stay together at school but what are you doing to the children of St. Paul and St. Raphael who share the same parish? What are you doing to the parish? If we are to rely on the Board of Trustees to make the final decision, then the community and key stakeholders should at least be provided with several possible solutions, to provide input. I read the review with an open mind, acknowledging the many aspects of increasing costs and declining enrolment rates. However, instead of feeling part of the process, we were presented with one option: the amalgamation of 5 elementary schools in Burlington, resulting in 3 school closures. Was there any consideration to keep some elementary children connected to St. Raphael parish? Was the option of consolidating St. Paul and St. Raphael schools, to support St. Raphael's church even considered? I don't know because the only possible solution that I read is that St. Paul children will go to St. John school (and St. Raphael children will go to Ascension). Major implications such as challenges with larger school communities, job loss for teaching staff and support staff, and declining church communities (only to name a few), are a reality. I feel like we will all look back in a few years and say 'how did this happen again?'</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 261231 | Nothing, the proposal doesn't make any sense, neither for the kids, the parents, the parish or the community. | This proposal would mean our kids would not have a Catholic elementary school in our neighbourhood. Moving the students of St Paul's Elementary School to St John's Elementary School on Brant Street would mean many children would lose the opportunity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Instead of closing an amazing school, you should allocate the funds (that won't be little) you are going to misuse in building at st. John and busing kids around, to improve the facilities (although no parent is complaining at St Paul about the facilities) |

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| 261724 | Nothing                                                                                 | <p>The St. John property is too small to accommodate the needs of a larger school population. The lack of open green space is concerning as well as the increased traffic in an area that cannot already accommodate the buses and cars that attend that location,</p>                                                                                                   | <p>I believe that it is in the students best interest not to amalgamate these two schools. St. John should remain as is, and St. Paul should be renovated to accommodate the St. Paul and St. Raphael student population. Obviously, St. Raphael school property is too small to expand and does not have any greenspace. A school environment needs to consider both classroom/interior factors as well as outside greenspace. The outdoor element of a school is as equally important to the internal function of the school. St. Paul, with its proximity to Assumption HS and the track, provides more opportunities to the student population for wellness and connection to our senior school. To remove both St. Paul and St. Raphael schools will not only affect the St. Raphael church community, it also creates a void for a Catholic elementary school presence from Brant St. to well past Appleby Line. It is not about the school as a separate entity, one must look at the community connection and its place in the commitment to a Catholic education fro JK all the way to Grade 12.</p> |
| 264651 | Nothing                                                                                 | <p>U will lose our tax dollars to the public board along with many others</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>Yes make St. Paul bigger we have the land.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|        | Comment 2: Nothing                                                                      | <p>Comment 2: Schools being 8 km apart</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Comment 2: Yes. Leave things as they stand. The demographic is changing, Families are moving to the area and empty nesters are leaving. Shortly, there will be a shortage of schools in south Burlington. And catholic schools will be non existent from Brant st to almost burl oak. Improve our schools</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 265962 | Attention of the HCDSB to the issues related to the schools in the Burlington Southwest | <p>I have concern with the security of my children if they need to commute to St. John school. Overcrowding of their classes, commuting problems, inability to walk from St. John school, overcrowding of the entire area around St. John (proximity of Central schools), increased possibility of bullying, higher vehicle traffic on Brant St. vs. Cumberland Ave.</p> | <p>Please don't close St. Paul school</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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| 260964 | Nothing!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>The proposal is to move St Paul kids to St Johns, a congested area to begin with, small parking lot, busy street. An addition wouldn't be sufficient for the number of children moving to St Johns, causing larger class sizes. My daughter has a XXX, increasing her class size is going to alienate her from receiving more personal attention in improving her reading skills. My children will be forced to commute for atleast 90 minutes of every day to school. We chose our home xxx years ago for its proximity to an elementary school. If I wanted my children bussed we would have moved to an area where that is already in place. This is a terrible idea. I truly believe the additional expense of bussing all those kids will be catastrophic to the Halton Catholic Board. Our children are going to suffer from a jammed school. St Raphael's parish is going to suffer from all the people that will now be alienated from the church because they were forced into sending their kids to public school. If this plan is successful, we'll be handing over our tax dollars to public schools by attending Ryerson Elementary. I can confidently tell you that 90% of the people I know are doing the same. Please don't kill catholic education in south Burlington!</p> | <p>Join St. Raphael's and St. Paul's if you have to close one of those schools. This will appease the masses, save St Raphael's Church, and reduce the amount you'll spend renovating, bussing, etc.</p> |
| 260957 | <p>I do not like anything about it.</p> <p>Comment 2: Being a father of three students at St. Paul's - I am not happy about any of the proposed plan. We love the idea of a neighbourhood Catholic school. Especially one so close to home and on the same site as the High School they will be attending.</p> | <p>I disagree with the students being bused to a location when there is one within walking distance; the challenges with that are numerous. Another challenge is a larger school population when all parents love the fact that there are smaller school hubs so that each child is known. Another challenge is spending money to fix St. John's to accommodate more students when the schools are fine the way they are. Another challenge is using the excuse that the schools are aging; the question there is why then are these buildings that are to be amalgamated with another school to be slated for different use? Money will need to be spent to change these buildings... So keep them as they are!!</p> <p>Comment 2: Our children will have to be bused to St. John's rather than walk to St. Paul and get exercise. There will be</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>Yes, don't do it.</p> <p>Comment 2: Maintain the status quo. Use money to invest in the students and school of St. Paul.</p>                                                                          |

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|        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | bigger class sizes. Local school community will be lost. Catholic Board may loose students to closer Public schools.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 277485 | Nothing. It is a horrible "plan." It does not take in to consideration, the wants and needs of students, parents or the community as a whole. It is a decision driven by people who do not have to live with the results.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Portables (student safety) - distance between schools - having to rearrange our lives, which we have built around the school and it's community - lack of the ability to walk to school - increased costs to bus students to the new location - location of t                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Leave things the way that they are.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 261155 | I really Don't find this any good for anyone.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | More children in classrooms. - More difficulty in transportation. - Less space for child's                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 261292 | To be blunt I like nothing about this so-called plan!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | St. Paul is a community school, many people have their roots there I already talked to several parents that will be forced to transfer to a public school as there is no Catholic Elementary school between Appleby Line to Brant Street Just the thought of dropping our kids or bus them in a school where there will be no parking of any kind on a busy street like Brant Street is scaring a lot of parents including me! Not to mention all the friendships between the students No parent would want to see their JK and SK kids going on a couple of hours or less travelling on a bus back and forth every day! I drive my XXX year old boy back and forth to St.Paul but many parents cannot do that! | If a change really need to be made merger St Paul with St Raphael as both schools use the same church but to totally get rid of such a large part of Catholic education does not bode well for a large part of Burlington's Catholic community! |
| 277152 | as a former XXX from st. Paul's, I am against the amalgamation of St. Pauls and St. Johns school.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 265776 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | school bus parking on courtland dr will be hazzadous...small children should be able to walk to school...                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | amalgamation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 261016 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | My concern is for the size of the yard after the construction is complete. I feel with that many students and with the extension there will not be a lot of room for the students to run and play.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 261014 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 277507 | There is nothing I "like best about the proposed plan". I do believe that there appears to be a rush to make a decision to take advantage of a financial incentive instead of putting the school community first. What would Jesus do? He would put the children first and the teachers that inspire these young minds. Jesus would certainly not make \$ the reason to make a decision. I encourage the decision makers to make the best choice for the children and community. | Our mayor and the city is encouraging all of us to be environmentally correct and get out of our cars. This is also healthy as we should cycle and walk to destinations that are reasonable distance. These schools are not ancient and should not land in our landfill sites. We provide a good example to our children when we do what we can - starting with walking to school. Busing students out of the community is not environmentally correct and not a good use of our children's                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | The only suggestion would be to terminate the plan. Revisit in 10-20 years after turnover of neighbourhood. Add French Immersion to the schools as an added program; understand there is a growing need in Burlington.                          |



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|        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | time. Closing schools change the fabric of a community. Many young families moved to these areas to take advantage of a school in a mature neighbourhood and more will follow as seniors move out of these areas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 264087 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 277258 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 261046 | Not one thing!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | The busing situation. Being able to walk my kids to the school grounds. The huge gap between schools in our area possibly leading to a decrease in our property value. The tight knit community where everyone knows everyone and it feels safe.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Children from Holy Rosary can be bused to St. John's while kids from St. Raphael's can come to St. Paul's Another suggestion might be to offer French immersion at St. Paul's and then you will see the numbers increase                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 265645 | Do not see any pros.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Distance from St. Paul's to St. John's, students would have to adjust to large school environment from a small school community (St. Paul), families would gradually lose their connection to St. Raphael parish, St. Paul's students would lose their connection to Assumption High School, families very likely chose their residence with school location as a prime factor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Is it possible to amalgamate St. Paul students with St. Raphael school, and in doing so, maintain their connection to St. Raphael parish?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 261083 | The opportunity for more diverse peer interaction and different classmates is appealing for younger grade. My children will be in the intermediate grades and the merging of 2 communities at this point for older students will be a challenge. If it is successful, the opportunity for a stronger school presence in inter-school activities, including team sports, is appealing. | I am not keen on the addition of portables. The land and yard space is already small at St. John, and the increased population will present supervision challenges in the current space. The addition of portables with further interfere with outdoor "play area". I would like confirmation that school operating times would not be altered. Merging 2 school communities would present challenges - how does the board propose to avoid an "us vs them" approach? Will this result in more split-grade classrooms - this is a concern. Construction always seems to run behind - how does the board wish to ensure timelines are met so that students begin the school year together? Will the teaching and support staff of the 2 schools merge? Where will the addition go? will it be 2 levels? Will logo, mascot or colours change to reflect the merging of 2 communities? Will services (ie resource) be adjusted to meet the growing school population? | Transparency to families in the community. If the proposal is approved, a concentrated effort for divisions and classes to meet offsite and at each school to begin developing social relationships. As well, focussed and planned gatherings for parents / families to meet. Traditions from both schools need to be considered and some of these aspects need to be kept for both communities along with the implementation of brand new school events / ideas / traditions. |
| 276374 | Improved facilities at St. Johns.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Board may be underestimating population projections. - Significant reduction in playground space at St Johns. -Requires additional parking at St. Johns. -increased bus traffic will become problematic on site and Brant Street. -increase in cars                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | as its population also declines and facility Requires More repairs and upgrades, Holy Rosary should also become part of This process. -if Assumption were to close, St. Pauls would be                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



Burlington Southwest of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                     |
|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | dropping off children and parking in no park areas, idling. -will affect St. Johns church masses, funerals and other events. -St. Pauls is located in a mature and stable neighbourhood that is easy to walk to with less reliance on a bus. -schools have a harder time monitoring students during recess with portables as obstructions. | able to be upgraded with additional space from the unnecessary sports field, St. Johns could close. |
|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southwest QEW School Project**

# **APPENDIX D**

# Transcribed Comments

## Community Consultation Meeting

Burlington Southwest QEW Modified Pupil Accommodation Review

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

✓ = Additional community member in agreement with comment

### QUESTION #1

#### *What do you like best about the proposed plan?*

- Will the school board have an alternate plan?
- What if I don't like anything
- Why was the consolidation done now and not before
- Walking is better to school?
- What will be done with the YMCA programs during the transitions/.
- Would I have the option to send my child to Ascension?
- Uniforms – what will happen (St. John vs. St. Paul)
- Nothing
- Amalgamation/consolidation does not save money (renovations, busing)
  - Please see attached [submitted own paper with typed concerns]
- Modern classroom concepts ✓✓
- Combining now versus closing in the future
- N/A! To be clear our table liked nothing about this plan!
- Nothing
- Nothing appeals
- Influx of money to improve facilities
- Opportunity to maintain St. John school
- Provide a greater range of extra-curricular (arts/music/sports teams/social justice)
- Hoping that this renewal would mean better use of tech(infrastructure) upgrade computers
- Physical concept of open windows and greenery
- Additional savings of admin costs
- At least the school would be beside a church
- Look of addition and updated facility
- Falls in line with funding and investing in students instead of space
- Higher number of staff in school
- Resources, classroom size, eliminating splits and updated facility
- Doesn't like anything
- Builds community, likes larger community
- Nothing
- Benefit of a large school but like smaller school community
- Nothing best about proposals
- New technology
- Better accommodation
- Nothing
- Updated 21<sup>st</sup> century facility
- Natural outdoor space
- Proposed site is St. John

- More staff, volunteers therefore more extracurricular the teams (chess)
- Still adjacent to church
- Absolutely nothing
- No positive outcome with proposal
- Nothing we agree with
- Newer modern facility
- Newer modern facility at an appropriate site
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Less split classes
- New school
- Extra-curricular activities
- Access to new technologies
- Economics of scale
- Additional learning opportunities/more extracurricular
- Nothing
- Nothing benefits our kids

## QUESTION #2

*What are the challenges you see with this plan?*

- Child safety, traffic ✓✓✓
  - On-site parking ✓
- Staffing considerations
- Considerations for the transition year; program, special needs
- Gym is inadequate in current condition
- Having kids bused ✓✓
- 4 hours bus commute in a week
- Time it takes for busing
- Incomplete proposal plan ✓
  - (Why no St. Paul conceptual plan?) \$\$
- Busing limits extra-curricular activities
- Questioning play area size (decrease)
- Changing of demographic – residential make-up is incorrect
- Concern of Parish losing the only 2 schools they serve
- Will cause switch to public board
- Where does City of Burlington and the urban plan feel about this plan
- Concern for lack of bus drivers
  - Experienced and properly trained
  - When properly experienced cost transferred to Board
- Another transition/adjustment
- New teachers, etc.
- Transportation
- Safety – traffic
- Play space – small for 500+ kids
  - No large open space
- Suggestion: offer French Immersion in schools being considered for closure
- Stimulate enrolment through new programs
- Parking/traffic
- Unrealistic layout (outside)

- Not to scale
  - Not enough greenspace
  - Not enough play area
- More congestion on Courtland
- Uniforms – not buying another!
- School traditions especially for senior students (grad, trips, Pasta Night...)
- Large gap in South Burlington with no Catholic school
- Loss of students to public
- Loss of students to feed Assumption – short term and long term
- Teachers/principals impact
- Timelines to September 2016
  - Input from community?
  - Not enough time prior to September 2016 to full complete informed process
- Schools need to be closer to churches
  - Creates a vibrancy to the Parish
  - No church/school less likely to attend a Catholic school
  - Decrease in money to fund schools
- The St. John school Grade 8's next year will be in a portable for their graduation year
- Loss of a substantial part of the parkland
- Why would the name have to be changed?
- What are the times for busing west of Maple Ave. to St. Paul
- Looking at numbers hard to believe decline projections should be based on grade 1
- Have they looked at turnover in neighbourhood
- Mistake not to keep Catholic presence in St. Paul area
- Driving in and out will be challenging – traffic, congestion, St. John
- Studies show – amalgamation does not save money
- Number of students per class will change
- Think that 14 minutes will be longer bus ride
- Concern accommodations – St. John – during transition
  - Bathroom capacity
  - Playground area
- St. Paul – will turnover ⇨ younger families moving in area
- Logic with numbers declining
- Children feel safer in smaller schools
- Conflicts are resolved faster and more efficiently
- How can students participate in extra-curricular activities when they have to take a bus
- St. Raphael church will suffer
- Bad weather – half school will be empty
- Boundary issues – we will now be closer to the new Ascension school
- The proposed plan in exact opposite direction of peoples commutes – how will impact?
- What is impact on student health when bused vs. walk?
- What will happen to existing uniforms (both schools)
- Has board considered loss of students to public board? (due to proximity/walk)
- Snow day challenge – if buses cancelled, students don't go (i.e. decreases amount of class time for students when buses cancelled and students don't attend)
- One lane streets near St. John – traffic issues
- Loss of association with Assumption (i.e. use of field, join in activities with high school students)
- Busy drop-off/pick-up time - untended children dropped off at school due to traffic challenges (i.e. commuters)
- Transition during a possible move – difficult for students

- Larger school = great anonymity – with/among students, staff
- Time staff can spend with children less with more students
- Parish/church community divided
- Division is the word
- We feel disillusioned – “decision already made”
- We feel not heard
- St. Paul site could be sold – condos? We are concerned
- Not involved early enough
- Commuting parents – too much time driving to and from school – impacts family
- Portables will be required at new site
- Before and after school programs have not been addressed
  - Spaces
  - Guaranteed
- Concerns about Parish community combination
- Confusion over demographic numbers
  - Where getting them from
- Future families coming to area and no Catholic school to attend
- Property values will decline
- Higher competition for opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activity
- Support wifi at transition sites/portable
- Cultural ‘spirit’ of both schools is different
- Transition to high school (Assumption next door to school)
- Not cost effective
- Funding per pupil basis doesn’t make a difference
- New site does not meet half of development criteria
- Site too small for number of proposed children ✓
- Busing entire population - St. Paul
- Costs
- Portables on St. Paul site
  - Safety
  - Hygienic
  - Pick-up/drop-off
  - Recess – play area too small
- Parish community is compromised
- Withdraw of enrolment to public board
- Psychological impact on children
- Decrease in Ontario standardized testing
- Transitional issues for children has not been properly addressed
- Confusion with regard to Board’s perspective of benefits to children
  - i.e. extra staff (what mean?), tools, extra-curriculars ⇨ compared to what we (St. Paul) already have
- Unrealistic busing/transportation times (average 14 minutes not realistic)
- Bused students will not be able to participate in after school/extra-curricular activities
- Criteria
  - Park/drop-off/busing
  - Busy street – safety – not enough green space
- In south removing 3 schools
- Concern Catholic education
- Forecast 10 year period appears short
- Size of physical site – not enough green space

- Worry Parish community at St. Raphael
- Because of busing – no time for extra-curriculars
- Home value decrease
- Time frame – too short
- Why not all new build
- Possibility of having no school (HDSB + HCDSB) in community – if both boards go through same process
- No community school
- Small forum
- Community grows and new St. John will not be big enough for all
- Too narrow-modified review – should include all 5 schools in area
- Transportation
  - Prefer children walk
  - If cancelled (inclement) larger group unable to attend
- Will change the demographic – less appealing to young families
- Challenge – safety to children – busy Brant Street
- Logistics re: buses, parent drop-off, extra traffic increased congestion ✓
- Concerns re: portables – limited space for yard play area
- Impact enrolment of Catholic students because of large distance - parents who do not drive unable to pick up children in emergencies. May elect non-Catholic schools
- Enrolment trends are cyclical – may increase as new families move in. (5 years is too small a timeframe)
- Increase in family population in new home purchases
- Very happy parent community and children
- Concern over loss of partnership between elementary and secondary
- Have looked into the changing of demographic in neighbourhood in student forecast
- Would people move into the area where school is not close to home
- What happens to staff? Move with students?
- Safety. Moving from quiet neighbourhood to busier
- How will deal with students with anxiety and reassure that everything will be fine
- Breaking up families in the community and lose future friendships for families that go public
- Why can't St. Paul offer French Immersion instead of current busing to another school
- If goes through what will this September look like and be organized
- Number of students vs. bathroom facilities when portables on site
- Transition year – portables ✓
- Infrastructure of schools ✓
  - Bathrooms
  - Uniforms
  - Management in admin
  - Recesses/lunch
- Two separate identities – us vs. them – OR one student body ✓
- Declining enrolment
  - Where did the board get the numbers from?
  - What do they have to back it up?
- Students leaving their home school
- Families moving to the public board
- Time on the bus (14-18 minutes) – snow day – what happens?
- What if the numbers increase instead of decrease?
  - Do we go through the process again?
- How much growth is at St. John (potential)
- How will students get home once after school activities are finished?

- The distance and safety of walking home!
- Math club
- The extra support the teachers provide to the students after school
- Having a community park to engage and develop friendships after school
- Neighbourhood caregivers walking students to and from school to assist “working parents”
- What is going to happen to St. Paul property?
- Community relationship with high school (St. Paul – Assumption)
- If parents choose elementary public school – we may lose enrolment to Catholic high school
- Brant St. busy street – how many accidents? Police report numbers
- Property values will decrease
- Concern that board more concerned about money than students
- Bigger is not better
- Wondering how extra-curriculars will accommodate extra kids
- No central south school will be available
- Uniform worries
- Larger school = less close relationships
- No opportunity for students to walk/bike – where’s healthy living? ✓
- Emotional challenges to children (increased anxiety)
- No talk about turnover of houses – seniors moving out – new families moving in ✓✓✓
- Short sighted growth trends
- Moved to area for local close Catholic school
- Transition year – portables for whole second school at one site
  - Not enough washrooms
  - Not enough teams
- Close proximity at St. Paul to Assumption allows easy transition
- Parking issues and pick-up/drop-off issues at St. John
- Housing resale value if no school available close by
- St. John far busier area
- Merging will see loss of good teachers
- Why not redo facility at St. Paul as it is a bigger site?
- Busing times not realistic
- Busing costs
- Daycare accommodation space (too many)
- Keeping Catholic schools alive is a challenge because people will transfer to public ✓✓
- Safety will be on busy Brant St.
- Transition for teachers
- Possibility of losing teachers – FSL, ARTS
- Divided parishes
- Transition for children with special needs
- First year – technology – concerns (e.g. wifi, computers, etc.)
- Parking?
- Traffic at St. John
- Losing Catholic students to public schools
- Young families will not move to our area because there is no Catholic school close by
- Over-crowding at public schools
- No parent-teacher interactions (because of busing)
- Job loss for staff
- Students can’t walk to school (decline in fitness)
- Increase rate of bullying in larger schools



- Students can't come home for lunch
- Right now students from Assumption mentor students at St. Paul and this will be lost
- Why are you moving the school to an area which is overflowing with condo development
- St. Paul is close to greenspace which is an advantage for students
- Why such a controlled meeting where parents not allowed to ask questions
- Not a lot of time for parent/community input. Turn around very short
- You did not explore any further options
- Extra-curricular activities – St. Paul students lose out due to buses
- Volunteering is a concern – school not in the area where parents live
- Studies have shown the healthy benefits and emotional well-being of walking to school
- We feel proposals are being rammed down the throats of the parents – no transparency
- If this proposal goes through are we to believe that you “value the opinion of our stakeholders”?
- Traffic increased for Cumberland when St. John comes for a year
- Bussed students would not be able to do extracurricular activities
- Changing demographics of existing homes
- Being rushed because ministry of Ed offering money
- Daycare at St. Paul's has before and after school program
- Distance is farther than HCDSB said
- No transit plan
- Mental health issues for students is not addressed in this plan
- No assumptions for students leaving the board
- No info or assumptions regarding the number of public schools in area
- No plan for the empty school (St. Paul's); still paying for empty school
- Closing 3 schools at the same time
- Big the school – bigger problems, bullying
- Specialized IEP – may not be available at larger school
- Not informed the community – including residents who don't have students
- Parents don't feel they have had an opportunity for input since there has been no open question and answer period
- High traffic areas
- Little operational cost savings – same amount of staff
- Based on assumption there will not be another monetary offer from the MOE.
- Location
- Bus vs walk
- Brant St too busy
- Less opportunity to participate in sports/activities for average child
- Loss of community
- Loss of accountability
  - Too large
- Losing affiliation with Parish
- Short term loss of space during renovation/addition
  - Portables
  - Facilities
- Transparency – lack of
- Travel distance hurts opportunity to participate in extracurricular
  - Need to use public transit vs school bus
- Inclement weather/bus cancellation poses issues
- Travel time < 14 min
- Cost/waste to replace uniforms

- Lack of green space
- Safety issue with # of students in limited outdoor space
- Loss of funding of Catholic students transfer to public
- All concerns make option to transfer to public board viable
- Hurt Assumption SS enrollment
- Home property value may decrease
  - No Catholic school closer than 8 km
- Losing faculty
- School name likely to remain St. John
  - Loss of identity
- Integration between St. J/St. P difficult
- Process itself
- Retention rate
- Traffic congestion at St. John
- Bussing
- Concern about transition plan/portables at St. Paul during construction
- Coordinating schedules – school days – whole population of school wouldn't be in class during snow days
- Don't believe the population progression – new families coming in and population is increasing (as seen in online – Real Estate Board)
- Emotional stress
- Moving from one area to another
- Population numbers could be inaccurate
- Safety of Brant St. and car dealership next to it.
- Children's emotional state of mind
- Not everyone will go to the school – students won't shift – they will go to public board
- Declining Catholic students giving to public system
- Acreage is inadequate and portables = less space
- Not ideal – new kids while school is being renovated (transition/construction period)
- St. Raphs & St. Pauls – bring together (this is a suggestion)
- Long term St. Paul could have been renovated
- St. John School area near the lake is not affordable
- Property value has increased
- Less time for sports and extracurricular (because of added transportation times)
- Courtland ave bus problematic for traffic flow and residence
- Lack of play space (areas to run)
- Turnover in neighbourhoods not being considered
- Long Census form to be implemented information could reveal something different
- What if you're wrong about declining enrollment?
- Potential loss of students to public board = MASS decline
- Health & fitness impact on kids due to lack of walking
- Portables take up play space
- Construction will take longer than 1 year
- Bussed students – parents aren't able to meet after school, arrange dates for kids to play
- Effects on mental health of children due to move
- Decline in St. John enrollment in JK next year due to changes and parents wanting young ones in portables.
- IEP students slipping through cracks
- Increase students = safety risk in that high traffic area
- What if there is increase # of students where will portables go? i.e Strathcona closed = increase portable at Tuck & Pineland STILL!!! 33 years later

- Where does additional parking needs go? Currently the lot is FULL!
- Not addressing declining enrollment and how we can increase enrollment
- Teachers won't know parents if issues arise for bussed students
  - Twice a year conferences can't address daily issues
- 2 parish churches will be in one school site – sacraments affected
- How will you deal with gym schedules, assemblies, recesses when 9 portables of children are attending St. Pauls for 2016/2017
- Bussing an issue: What happens when school closed for snow days
- Why take away the small school for a school with “big windows & sunlight”?
- Big schools do not always meet the sociological needs of students – they want to feel part of their environment and not just a number
- How many students will be lost to the public system
- Younger families are moving into established areas – your rationale is wrong!
- Already have upgraded Ascension & St. John's (So why more renovations)
- Distance is too far
- St. John's does not have a parking lot to accommodate parents – safety concerns
- Lot size of 1.9 acres at St. John not adequate

### QUESTION #3

#### *Do you have any suggestions to improve this plan?*

- Amalgamate St. Paul and St. Raphael into one school at a site central to both schools – if money is a concern sell our two schools – use the funds to build a new school with all the bells and whistles – rumour has it Gary Allen School might be closed – use this area and parkland beside school for new school
- Go back to the drawing board and look at other options – not enough research done for such a major decision
- Leave schools as is!
- Build on St. Paul property
- Amalgamate with Ryerson Public School
- Reevaluate projected numbers for both schools – wait for census
- Bring a French Immersion program to either school (South Burlington)
- Gary Allen site? Bring St. Raphael, St. Paul and St. John to Gary Allen site (is this an option)
- Put a third floor on St. Paul School
- Join St. Raphael and St. Paul to keep Parish (Di Vito's plan)
- Combine St. Raphael/St. Paul and Ascension/St. Patrick
- We don't want to lose a Parish location!
  - Parish Issue/Boundary/Issue
- Offer French Immersion at St. Paul
- Give options/flexibility re: boundaries i.e. St. Paul families who live closer to Ascension
- Provide us with what the other options were – i.e. involve us in this
- Use empty classes for daycares (i.e. private) – this may increase enrolment
- Baptismal – do families understand can register if one parent is baptized – get the word out and people will come
  - Drop the requirement that one parent be baptized
- Raise funds – can community help to offset costs to keep school open?
- Can we remove the atrium? What is the purpose of it?
- Try to complete the construction as quickly as possible to limit time out of the home school
- Large concern about how we are able to maintain our traditional Parish congregations with the move of St. Paul to St. John?
- How much more park will be compromised after the construction?
- Movement of buses through the school yard for drop-off/pick-up

- Fewer Parish = fewer Catholic school kids = less money for Catholic schools
- Hire a more creative architect to build at St. Paul. Go vertical
- Would like to see a chapel rather than an atrium. Or incorporate both into atrium
- Join St. Raphael and St. Paul ⇨ bring to St. Paul
- A transition bus from St. John to St. Paul
- Place St. John students at St. Raphael during the transition year
- Consider changing boundaries
- Need to emphasize long term benefits for the consideration
- Merge St. Raphael and St. Paul and redo one of the facilities ✓✓✓
  - Keeps church community together
- Keep St. Paul and use extra space for other programs (i.e. South French Early Immersion)
- Close St. Paul top floors so not necessary to fund space
- Rent extra space at St. Paul to outside users (i.e. Montessori schooling)
- More transparent communication
- Another site altogether and merge 2 schools in middle on land in between
- Relook at boundaries to have farthest commuters relocate to close Ascension
- Close one school, and adjust boundaries
  - Keep 3 schools
- The possibility of portables at St. John
- Keep the name of the school to maintain the history – adjacent to the church
- Combine St. Paul and St. Raphael
- Make St. Paul a French Immersion school or bring a French Immersion program to any South Burlington Catholic school
- Address how to increase enrolment
- Merge St. Paul and St. Raphael
- Invest in the schools that are there
- Do not make changes
- Show future operating cost with a new school compared to current operating costs
- Include boards mental health plan in further discussions
- Where will portables be placed?
  - Will they overtake kid play areas
- Renovate St. Paul
- Base numbers on grade 1 enrolment
- Increase French Immersion at St. Paul to increase enrolment
- More liberal rules around baptism/enrolment
- More transparency, communication
- Look at adding French Immersion to both schools to boost enrolment
- How is the Parish boundary affected sacraments/priest visits
- Ascension/St. Patrick
- St. Raphael/St. Paul
- St. John
- Should be child-based/comfort of children. They get to know Parish Priest and develop relationships
- Suggestion: St. John JK-6, St. Paul 7-8 ⇨ transition to secondary
- Concern – turnover in older neighbourhoods to younger families will increase enrolment
- Losing a lot of people because of French Immersion. Start French Immersion in the south end
- Amalgamate schools together for French Immersion in south to increase enrolment
- More opportunity for children with French Immersion (not windows, and new computers in proposal)
- Smaller schools = less bullying, close knit community
- Building up St. Paul

- Nobody cares about technology, more advanced buildings – it's the quality of the teachers in the classroom that gives the quality experience to the kids
- More money into an established school
- To cancel this plan – nobody wants this plan
- Keep at least 1 school in the neighbourhood
- No portables on a newly renovated space
  - Just build a couple extra classrooms!
  - Projections are just projections
- No suggestion as don't support the plan ✓
- Every family should have a 'vote' to identify whether they support or do not support the proposed change. This result should be shared with the ministry
- Scrap the plan
- Introduce alternate plans
- Offer French Immersion to boost student enrolment
- Introduce ideas to increase enrolment
- Rebuild on St. Paul site, sell St. John ✓
- Support current St. John's plan
- Why is this proposal so different than the other MPARs currently underway?
- How will funerals be scheduled?
- Address green space issues
- French Immersion program (Early French Immersion and Extended French Immersion) deficit in South Burlington
- Specialized magnet schools to increase enrolment
- Combine St. Paul and ST. Raphael
  - Same parish is important
- Leave things as they are or wait until demographic projection is correct
- Do a boundary review
- Introduce programs to schools to attract new enrolment
  - French Immersion
  - Economics
- Propose a middle ground school
  - Smaller radius
- Unify St. Raphael and St. Paul
- Drury Lane site – turn it into a school site – combine St. Paul and St. John
- Survey the community to find out if there are children 0-4 that would be enrolling at St. Paul

# Handout Left on Table

## Community Consultation Meeting

Burlington Southwest QEW Modified Pupil Accommodation Review

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

### *Why is the decision to close St. Paul school not the right one?*

- If the HCDSB predictions for declining enrollment over the next 5-10 years are wrong, and they close St. Paul and St. Raphael elementary schools they will have created a black hole of almost 8 km with no Catholic school option between Appleby Ln and Brant Street. This will leave two options for families in the area. Either bus our children to overcrowded schools that have reached capacity, likely needing portables to accommodate the children OR send our children to the closest public school that is within our own community but which also may not be able to handle the influx of children.
- Recent research out of the University of Western Ontario (Timothy Cobban 2014) shows that amalgamation does not save money. On the contrary the costs of renovations, busing students and transition costs far outstrip any savings. (source: Ministry of Education)
- Education Funding in Ontario is per pupil based and would not change with amalgamation. The only way to save money would be to close hundreds of schools (Source: Halton Catholic District School Board Email 'Please show your support for Catholic Education' sent Jan 14, 2016)
- Stats Canada states that the number of youth is increasing in many areas even those that have shown a decline. The Drummond report states that the decline in enrollment will end around 2014 and that enrollment will start to increase around 2015. Drummond goes on to caution that this increase must be considered when planning for controlled growth in the education sector.
- Bussing almost the entire population of a school (as St. Paul's would be) would eliminate the children's right to ride bikes or walk to school. This is contrary to the stance that the board should be taking to promote healthy active children. There are countless studies that show the benefits to walking to school. And with childhood obesity and diabetes on the rise it is even more important.
- St. John's lot size is 1.9 acres. This is less than 50% of the recommended lot size of 5 acres the board's proposal recommends. Once the addition is added on the school there will be even less space for the children to play and grow. With almost no green space to begin with this addition of 260+ students from St. Paul will be hard to accommodate safely. Portables would likely be an option even though the board's own proposal states the St. John site should not have portables for any length of time. St. Paul's lot on the other hand is 4.7 acres. It backs on to green space, nature and bike path, shares a state of the art new Sports field with the neighboring high school and is beside a park with a playground and additional green space. It is located on a quiet safe residential street and is used as a voting station and hub for the local community.
- The safety of our children is also at risk. When 9 portables are brought on site to St. Paul in September of 2016 to accommodate the entire population of St. John school where will our children play? How will this be a safe option? What about bathrooms, gym time, dismissal, busses and recess.
- The new addition to St. John of 4 new classrooms will include 2 new kindergarten classrooms. (4 in total with the 2 already there) this leaves our older students with only two new classrooms and empty classrooms to accommodate the 10 homerooms our school currently has (not including kindergartens). This will mean larger class sizes.
- St. Paul's is located in a residential family area. New Families will be moving in as the senior residents downsize or require assisted living. We will need our school.

- Small schools create great communities. Parents interact and know one another as well as their children. Often conflicts are literally resolved after school on the playground at pick up, when parents can talk things out face to face. Parents feel accountable for themselves and their children.
- Children feel safe in small schools. They not only know all the teachers whether they have been taught by them or not but they often know most of the other children as well as their families. Studies have shown student's mental health has a direct link to their academic success.
- Extracurricular activities in large schools often have less students enrolled due to strict bus schedules the children must adhere to. In addition to that large schools often provide kids with less opportunities to be on sports teams or in clubs as more children are trying out making competition fierce. Where as in a small school a large majority of the population may be on teams and this creates a sense of pride for the students.
- Standardized testing has shown the small schools consistently do better academically. Students with special needs are often discovered more quickly and receive help faster. Where large schools offer more opportunity for children to slip through the cracks.
- Small schools usually have less bullying, conflict and discipline problems.
- St. Raphael Church will struggle to keep its community families in the Parish when their children's schools are beside other churches.
- On very cold or very hot days the school does not make the children play outside but instead they are allowed right into the school at arrival and have indoor recess. These children will now have to stand at the bus stop on these very same days waiting for the bus to get to school. They will not be able to walk there even if they wait to as the school will be almost 4 km away for some in the furthest boundaries this will be closer to 5.3 km.
- Although the new school will have beautiful 21<sup>st</sup> century architecture this is not proven to have any influence of academic success.
- On a bad weather day when busses are not running, almost the entire population of St. Paul school will be absent as they will almost all need to be bussed downtown.



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southwest QEW School Project**

# **APPENDIX E**



## Parking Lot Questions

Community Consultation Meeting for Burlington Southwest QEW

March 8, 2016

### QUESTION:

- What will happen to the park at St. Paul's because my friends and I (Kyra Element) use this park a lot and it is in walking distance?

### ANSWER:

The Cumberland Park adjacent to St. Paul School will remain a park use, as it is city owned. HCDSB and the City of Burlington have a shared-use agreement with the park; this is expected to continue.

### QUESTIONS:

- How is St. Johns lot size of 1.9 acre changed to 3.9 acres of usable space YET St. Pauls lot size of 4.7 acres is reduced to 2.97 acres of usable space? In St. John the parkland is taken into consideration BUT St. Pauls track is not. But it is used daily by students!
- Why should we trade bricks and mortar for portables and why should we trade greenspace for a car dealership backdrop
- Why is St. Paul lot suitable for St. Johns students temporarily next year BUT not permanently?
- How do you get around developmental criteria – proposed site less than 1/2 the guidelines

### ANSWERS:

At the time when staff presented to the St. John Catholic School Council in February, it was requested that we provide acreage of the play space areas located on both sites. At the Community Consultation Meeting, staff explained that the term, *usable acreage* referred to lands that could be used for the development of a larger school, or as an unrestricted play space area.

For St. Paul School, we understand that the track area is used daily, but it is also a shared facility with Assumption Catholic Secondary School, which receives priority when the secondary school needs to use the space. If we are to include the track, the total usable play space would be approximately 2.72 acres.

It is anticipated that St. John School would only require 1 portable in the first year of opening. The newly renovated school would not require portables in the coming years, as the school would operate at 90%-100% utilization.

When staff reviews potential site options, it is not solely a matter of the available space on site. Many factors are taken into consideration before selecting potential site options. Staff also reviews the following:

- 1) **A central location of the site in relation to where students live** – in this instance, St. John School captures the highest number of students living within a 5 km distance from the school, in comparison to St. Paul School.
- 2) **Transportation times and average distance to school** – a central location for students would reduce overall transportation times and the average distance to school.
- 3) **Adjacent uses** – staff review the adjacent uses of a school site and if there are any restrictions that would affect access to the school.
- 4) **Other site limitation** – other site restrictions (if any) are reviewed when comparing school sites.

Although St. Paul School is designated as the holding school for the transition year, we do not believe this is an ideal location for the long-term needs of our students.

## QUESTIONS:

- How are you planning on building school spirit by segregating kids in 2016/2017 school year?
- What are you doing to grow the Catholic Community in this area

## ANSWER:

If this proposal were approved, none of our students would be segregated for 2016-2017, as all students would move and stay together. A Transition Committee would be established to help students, families and staff through this period of time. The Committee would help with logistics, while also assist with transition activities, school community introductions and school closing events. Students would also be introduced to their peers through school and parish events to help build and strengthen the Home, School, Parish connections and school spirit in the area.

If the approval to proceed with the project is granted and depending on the Transition Committee's recommendation, there would be an opportunity to include students from both schools together in a classroom setting.

## QUESTION:

- Bullying stats at larger schools? Smaller schools staff & community can handle issues immediately – no delayed effects!!

## ANSWER:

School staff and administrative staff have not witnessed a higher per capita number of bullying incidences at our larger school communities. With a larger group of teaching and non-teaching school staff, as well as more classrooms available, there is greater flexibility in addressing these issues and concerns at the school. All school staff are able to recognize and address potential bullying issues, ensuring that the safety and well-being of our students is always a priority.

## QUESTIONS:

- If Catholic education is our prime concern, what will happen to the St. Raphael parish community when families from two schools (St. Paul, St. Raphael) will no longer be connected to this church? Where will these children be permitted to receive sacraments such as First Holy Communion?
- What are you going to tell St. Raphael's church when they lose parishioners to St. Johns?
- How will you guarantee parish longevity?
- How will 527 students and staff etc. fit at St. John's church??
- What is the plan for our St. Raphaels Parrish?
- If the church-school relationship is important why not keep at least 1 of St. Raphs or St. Patricks?
- Why is school/church community important this week, but wasn't at last week's mtg?
- St. Raphael church will struggle to keep parish families, what happens to them?

## ANSWERS:

As we have experienced and seen in many of our secondary schools, there are often a number of parishes that welcome multiple schools within the same boundary. In this situation, there would be 2 parishes connected to the newly proposed schools. If both projects were to be approved, St. Raphael parish would welcome students, families and staff from the Burlington Southwest and Burlington Southeast schools.

If the proposed plans are approved, we would further develop and continue to strengthen the home, school, and parish relationships between students, staff, parents, pastors, and members of our broader community. The Transition Committee, the schools and the parish teams would work together to develop an appropriate plan for receiving sacraments.

All families have the option to decide which parish they wish to attend, regardless of which parish boundary they belong to. The school in which their child attends would have equal opportunity to have parish representation of both St. Raphael's and St. John's church during the regular school day.

Much like having more staff to provide additional support to the school community, we strongly believe that having two parishes would further strengthen Catholic education in our schools. With the association of two parishes, there would be more support and resources to provide the sacraments, and for Catholic community events.

Although having a parish next door to a school has its benefits, it is not an essential piece in building the home, school, and parish connection. In both options presented for the Burlington South QEW review areas, multiple parishes are located within very close proximity of the proposed school. The majority of our students do not have a church immediately adjacent to their property; however, the parish connection is maintained through the relationships established between parish priests, youth ministers, school staff, and school communities.

We continue to work with our Catholic partners to ensure that the home, school, and parish connection is further strengthened for the Catholic education of our students.

### QUESTION:

- How do you get rid of 3 processes in the procedure.

### ANSWER:

As was presented at the Community Consultation Meeting, the Modified Accommodation Review Process was undertaken, based on the following criteria:

- Distances between school is below 5 kilometers
- 3 schools or less involved
- No boundary changes

Based on meeting these criteria, the process only required 1 Community Consultation Meeting to be held as opposed to having 2 meetings and the establishment of an Accommodation Review Committee. It should be noted, that there were a number of meetings that took place to gather feedback and hear from parents, staff and members of the community in the affected areas. In addition to the Community Consultation Meeting, feedback was collected from a number of forums, including parent council meetings, staff meetings, the online feedback survey and the online discussion forum.

### QUESTIONS:

- Have the residence of Cartland Ave area had opportunity to express opinion on the proposed busing recommendations? (Street being used as a depot).
- Was the format of this meeting chosen to remove the emotional element of attendees?
- Why such a controlled (by the Board) meeting and not allowing parents to ask questions?  
YES!!!
- If your proposal is to go ahead as outlined are you really “valuing the opinion of our stakeholders”
- Can you define consultation 2 way conversation
- When is the open question and answer session?
- Why won't parents be asked to vote yes or no for the proposed plan so that will mean there has been a true consultation?

### ANSWER:

The format selected for the Community Consultation Meeting was organized in this manner to allow all attendees to have an equal opportunity to express their comments and concerns over the proposal in small group settings. We believe that this was a far more effective approach to ensuring all parents and members of the community had a voice to answer the 3 open ended questions presented by staff.

Opportunity was also provided for one on one group discussion to ask HCDSB staff questions related to the proposal. In having the meeting set up in small group settings and numerous staff available, we believed that we were able to answer more questions in this consultation format.

A yes or no question for the proposal was not an option as it would not provide individuals with the necessary information. The matter is far too complex for a closed ended question, which is also why we decided to provide a presentation before breaking out into small groups at the Community Consultation Meeting.

For questions not addressed during the Community Consultation Meeting, parents and members of the community were given the opportunity to pose their questions in a 'parking lot' format, which are the questions in this document.

We decided to provide the 'parking lot' format with chart paper posted on the walls for community members to share their questions and feedback, specific to their concerns. This format would also allow us to collect the feedback, adapt the plan where feasible, and address concerns as best as possible.

All feedback collected from the online survey, online discussion forum, and from the 'parking lot' format will be collated and attached as part of the Staff Final Recommendation Report to the Board, to be presented on March 22, 2016. The Board of Trustees will have an opportunity to read and reflect on the comments provided by the community before reaching a decision.

We understand that there are many views and opinions on the proposed plan and the accommodation issues it seeks to address. It should be noted that the Board of Trustees will decide the most appropriate pupil accommodation arrangements for the delivery of the elementary and secondary programs at HCDSB. At times, this may lead to school consolidations and/or closures.

## QUESTIONS:

- Will we know how each trustee voted at the final board meeting? This will certainly impact on our next election for trustees.
- will the vote be recorded?
  - specifically will the trustee say their name for the record along with their vote/decision!
- last meeting – is it open to public OR closed mtg??
- How do you stop this plan?
- Will trustee pay be reduced relative to the reduction in schools?

## ANSWER:

On April 19, 2016, the Board of Trustees will vote on the final recommendations provided by Staff.

This will be a public meeting open to all members of the community. The vote will be recorded, and posted as part of the Board minutes.

If the Board of Trustees do not approve the proposed accommodation plan, the process ends. The accommodation plan, however, may be reviewed under a different plan as the accommodation issues of declining enrolment would still remain.

The number of Trustees at our Board is determined by the number of ratepayers that have self-identified themselves in regional municipality, specifically in the Region of Halton. The number of Trustees is not determined by the number of schools in our Board.

## QUESTIONS:

- Will parent concerns be presented as part of the gov't proposal?
- Please post link to the gov't funding prog. site. What option to enrollment have been considered? Is funding upfront or over period of X years?

## ANSWER:

The Board of Trustees will be presented with all the feedback and parent concerns we received from this process, and will make the decision of whether or not to approve the proposal, before it reaches the Ministry of Education for approval. The Ministry of Education will only fund projects that are approved by the Board of Trustees, and would not interfere with Trustee decisions on such matters at this time.

The following link refers to the memo circulated by the Ministry of Education, outlining details related to "Requests for School Consolidation Projects and New Construction of Child Care":

[https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab/Memos/B2015/B16\\_EN.pdf](https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab/Memos/B2015/B16_EN.pdf)

Currently, the School Consolidation Capital has only been made available over 4 years. We are currently in year 2. There is no guarantee that this will be renewed after the 4 year period.

## QUESTIONS:

- Why did you start so late when you knew about the funding in 2014?
- What are we just hearing about this now?

## ANSWER:

In 2013, the Board approved its Long Term Capital Plan (LTCP - <http://www.hcdsb.org/Board/LTCP/Pages/default.aspx>) in principle, which stated that the Burlington South of QEW Review area was under significant declines, and would require the removal of 1,100 pupil places from the Board's inventory. This document was circulated publicly, and has been available online since its approval.

We were not able to initiate any accommodation reviews until our Pupil Accommodation Review policies and procedures were updated, which were based on the Ministry of Education's new Pupil

Accommodation Review Guidelines (PARG), released in March, 2015. The Board has since updated its policies on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (also circulated publicly), and we are now in the process of undertaking the plans set out in the LTCP.

The information and reports on all 4 active Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews have been public record since January 5, 2016. All documents are available on our Board website: [www.hcdsb.org](http://www.hcdsb.org).

## QUESTIONS:

- Will there be a redrawing of the feeder system for Assumption?
- How can you guarantee future property of St. Paul is kept for Assumption HS

## ANSWER:

In the 2013 Long Term Capital Plan, secondary school accommodations in Burlington would need to be addressed due to declining enrolment. It is contemplated that a total of 1,000 pupil places would need to be removed, as part of an Accommodation Review Process. It is anticipated that a redrawing of the boundaries may be required. The St. Paul site is to be kept to ensure there is greater flexibility in addressing secondary school land needs.

## QUESTIONS:

- How often are your plans on-time and on-budget?
- How are you going to manage cost overruns to construction?

## ANSWER:

Projects are very well managed at the HCDSB, where there has been an excellent record of completing schools on-time and on-budget.

## QUESTIONS:

- What are the operational costs involved and what is the capital costs involved?
- Board of Catholic Education sent an email to parents on JAN 14, 2016 titled "support catholic education" in it they state numerous reasons why amalgamations don't work. Explain this why doesn't it work for public/catholic but works for catholic/catholic? Your own data says it does NOT save money!
- Recent research out of Univ. of Western Ont. (Timothy Cobban 2014) shows that amalgamation DOES NOT SAVE MONEY!!!
- →On the contrary costs of renovations, bussing, far outstrip ANY SAVINGS. \*Ministry of Education\*
- S.O.S. Keep are kids local!!



## ANSWER:

As part of the Final Recommendation Report to the Board presented on March 22, 2016, there will be a section that will have information regarding the capital and operational savings of operating 1 school instead of 2 in the Burlington Southwest QEW review area.

As explained in the Initial Staff Report, presented on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016, information on the renewal needs of both buildings were provided, where a total of approximately \$4.5M of renewal needs are required within 5 years between the 2 schools (\$3.5M for St. Paul School and \$1.0M for St. John School). The payback period of the new addition is within 10 years.

As will be outlined in the March 22, 2016 Report, over 10 years, there will be a cumulative operational savings of \$2.5M in school operations when comparing the operation of 2 schools versus 1 school.

These savings would be invested into our students and their academic achievement, instead of the maintenance and repairs of empty spaces.

## QUESTIONS:

- When do parents have opportunity for input, specifically for start of Sept. 2016 year?
- Many questions about the 2016-2017 school year when do we get to have input?
- How can there be enough time to communicate thoughts and ideas and have processes in place prior to Sept. 2016? We have Gr. 8 specific questions who will address these & when?

## ANSWER:

If the proposal moves forward, a Transition Committee would be established which would include parents, parent council members, school staff, the parish, and Board administration. At this point in time, the committee would address the questions raised about the transition of students moving to the new school. Questions about Grade 8 students would also be addressed when a Transition Committee has been established.

## QUESTIONS:

- What process was used for forecasting enrollment? (company name, internal, survey of residents?)
- Please post links & sources to your enrollment data!
- What is the projected trend for enrollment for the next 25 years (instead of 10)?
- St. Pauls is at 80% capacity – we are not empty
  - St. Johns
- Where will future families go to school after the closures demographic forecast is proven wrong
- Assisted living increasing. New families will come in where will they go?
- What is the expected decrease in enrollment due to the change?



- You are using only 5 years to establish a trend. Have you looked at the trend in the past over a longer period of time?
- Explain how real estate data, the Drummond Report, and our own MP Jack Dennison predicts growth in the area in the future and says schools will be needed yet your predictions shown declines? Is this based only on trends used over the last 10 years which don't take into account the current housing bubble? And aging population leaving the area? As well as the lack of a long form census?

## **ANSWER:**

To generate the projections of existing communities, we use actual October 31<sup>st</sup> enrolment headcounts of the past 5 years (2011-2015) as a base to develop 15-year enrolment projections. Using 2-5 years of past enrolment trends and retention rates (as they are the most current), combined with current October 31, 2015 headcounts, the progression of students (from grade to grade) is calculated.

A 25 year trend would present a stable enrolment with no additional growth or declines. However, further than 15 years does not account for future changes in trends that may occur whether positive or negative for enrolment. For this reason, we are looking at retaining holding properties in the event that a need arises in 20+ years.

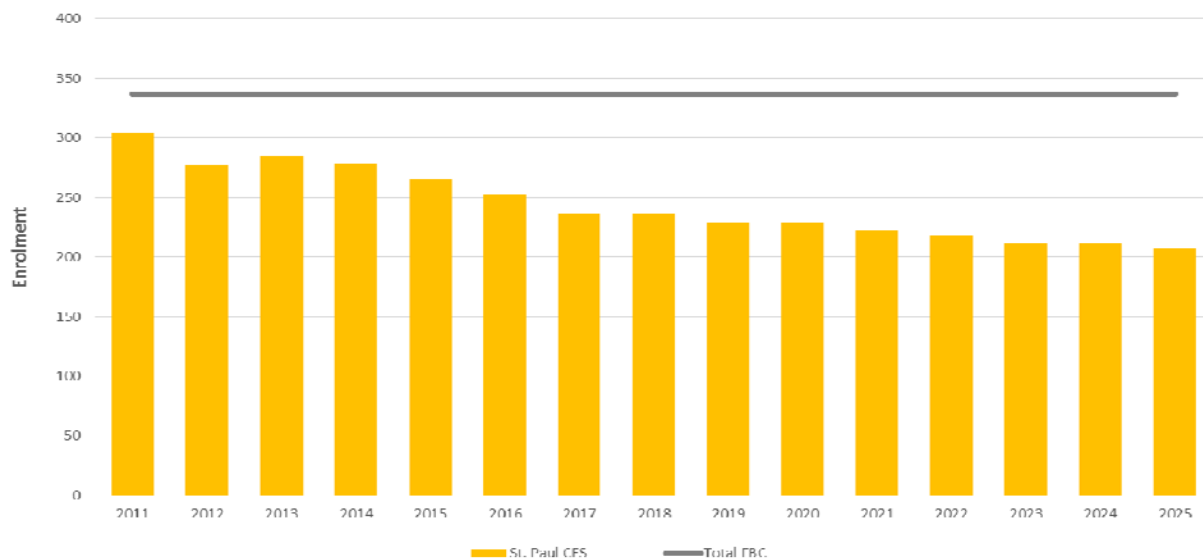
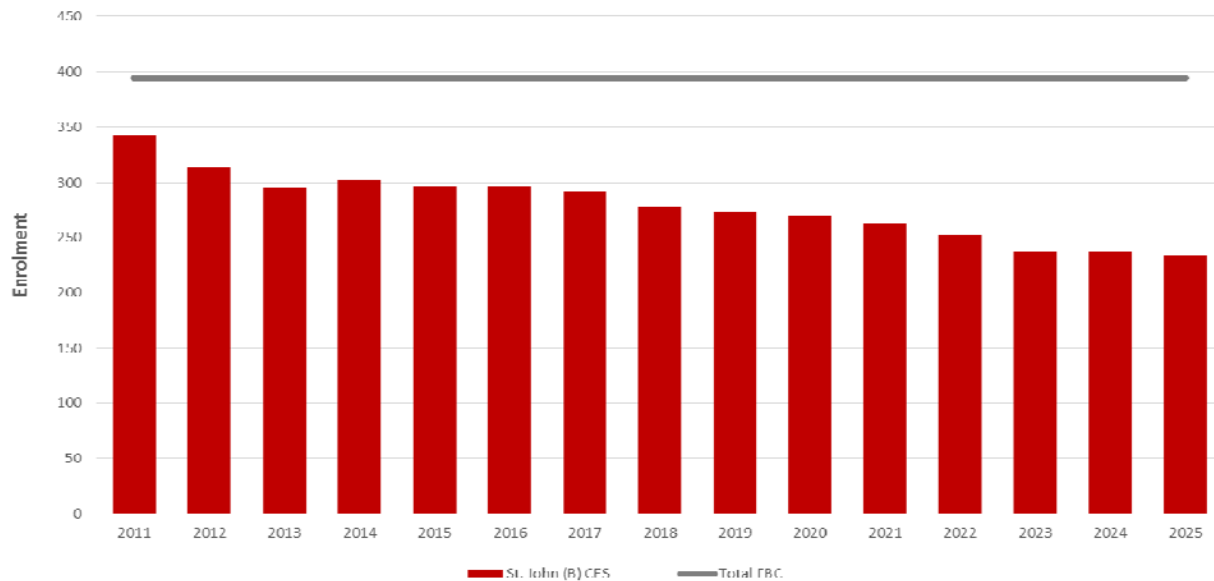
To further supplement the existing community projection, we use all filed and active development application (subdivision, site plan, and condominiums) to estimate the number of new students yielded from new development units (i.e. a house). In the case of Burlington Southwest QEW, development is very limited, predominantly comprised of high density development (condominiums) that historically yields very few students.

As for Junior Kindergarten (FDK) enrolments, we have reviewed past birth rate trends as well as review Census information from 2001, 2006, and 2011 to monitor the number of school aged children within each community as well as historical participation rates (Catholic vs. public).

All the projections supplied as part of this process have been peer reviewed by a third party consultant, which has confirmed the declining enrolment scenario projected for Burlington Southwest QEW.

Neighbourhood regeneration has been a topic that a number of boards in the province of Ontario have been researching for many years. What has been tracked, is that the regeneration of enrolment does not happen in the same amplitude as would be seen in a new development area. Instead, new students slowly materialize over time. The current projections use this assumption, which does not demonstrate an increase that would have the effect of filling empty pupil places. Furthermore, it has also been witnessed that when families move in to established neighbourhoods, the more predominant age cohort that enters would be at the secondary panel.

Below are the individual school's historic enrolment (2006-2015) and projected 10 year enrolment (2016-2025).



## QUESTION:

- Why build a mega school with declining enrollment?
- if you're right about #'s why spent needless \$

## ANSWER:

If the proposal is approved, we would build a 527 pupil place school, which is considered a good size school to meet the enrolment needs of the current community. We typically build 671 pupil place schools in new areas.

We think that this is a good investment for the community, as it will update a newer facility (St. John School was built in 1995) to today's standards.

Our numbers indicate that the building of a school this size would be sustained by the student population (from the amalgamation of the 2 schools) over an extended period of time.

### QUESTION:

- How will you address the declining enrollment in JK/SK for 2016-2017 caused by this change?
- What if more parents start sending their kids to Public schools?
- What are you prepared to do if we move our children to the public board?
- Are you taking into consideration the number of people opting out of catholic education as a result of this project?

### ANSWER:

We believe that the proposed plan is in the best interest of our students, and we hope that our current families and students will choose to stay with us should the proposed plan be approved, and we proceed with the construction of an addition for the new Southwest Burlington school community.

### QUESTION:

- How will you guarantee our students going to St. Johns

### ANSWER:

There are no boundary reviews being contemplated as part of this process.

### QUESTIONS:

- Why are you not looking for ways to increase enrollment?
  - i.e. FI in South Burlington!!
- How will our bused children be able to fully participate in extra curriculars (before and after school)?
- What is planned for before and after school programs?
  - Spaces available for all children/higher competition for space?
- How will my children attend after school activities if they have to catch a bus?
- Why not make the south Burlington schools specialized magnet schools to increase enrollment (ie. Extended French, tech)
  - + self-contained; gifted; structured teaching; etc.
- Why not expand/maintain enrollment in South Burlington by offering programs which are so limited in Burlington
  - French immersion (early + late)
  - Self contained gifted

- Structured teaching, etc.
- Why not introduce F.I. to draw enrolments.
- Why don't we utilize some of the schools for some programs like French Immersion (early & late) instead of closing them, for there is only one school catering French Immersion in Burlington

## ANSWER:

In the proposed plan, it is anticipated that all current services and programming would be provided at the new location – everything comes together. Before and After School Programs would be offered at the new school, and the capacity would be adjusted for the additional demand.

It should be noted that the introduction of new programs at a school does not necessarily draw additional students. Typically there is a re-apportionment of students from the regular day program to the new program being contemplated. This said, with a larger school population at one location, it becomes more viable to expand curriculum offered at the school.

As an example, the Extended French Immersion was once offered at Ascension Catholic Elementary School to serve south Burlington, however the school could not sustain the student enrolment numbers to maintain the program. If there was a larger school population to draw from, the program may have had better success.

## QUESTION:

- Board sent out survey – Me to We – students having higher levels of anxiety – how will this be affected through consolidation?

## ANSWER:

In any situation where students have special needs, staff ensures that the proper accommodations are made. Staff is very diligent in addressing matters such as student anxiety as soon as they arise to ensure that supports are in place as may be needed.

## QUESTIONS:

- Why not give parents the option of choosing Ascension over St. John?
- Why not combine St. Paul and St. Raphael? (these schools already share a parish, a community and are only 1 km apart)
- Is there a \$ amount the community could raise to prevent St. Paul's from closing?
- Please explore utilizing vacated schools ie. St. Raph's to accommodate St. John's school during the transition. St. Paul will be a challenge to house all of those students.
- Why not tear down St. Paul's & build a brand new 3 storey school? (Build up not out) Lot size is 4.7 acres St Johns is 1.9
- Why not redistribute St. Gabriel's which is already overflowing with portables??
  - some of their students actually live closer to St. John's
  - offer more French Immersion spaces

- St. Raph & St. Paul – build up use Mr. DeVitto's proposed plan!!
  - Review his plan & advise.
- Why not combine St. Pauls and St. Raphs which are MUCH closer?
- Why was St. Paul St Raphaels not considered
- Why could you not close one school and adjust the borders? Why close 3 schools all at once that have been around for 40-50 years?
- Why not combine St. Pauls + St. Raphael and adjust boundaries as needed
- Why not give the option to choose between St. John & Ascension

## ANSWER:

In order to ensure that numbers at each school can accommodate the appropriate number of students, designated boundaries must be established. To have uncertainty of numbers could possibly incur extra costs such as the need for portables. There is a current procedure available to all parents each year to request cross boundary status for their child(ren). This is done through the Family of School Superintendent and the school Principal on an annual basis. The decision to grant cross boundary would be decided using a number of factors such as class numbers, rationale, etc.

Having extra money would not eliminate the issue of declining enrolment. As previously stated, the extra empty pupil places that will continue to increase and will continue to cost more and more each year.

If the plan does proceed as per the timelines established, St. Raphael School would still be in use for the 2016-2017 school year by that current community as Southeast Burlington is in a similar situation with possible closure/consolidation using the same timelines. If a delay in the proposed timelines were to occur and St. Raphael School would be available, this would be an option to consider.

In examining all schools in the south of Burlington, many options were explored based on maximizing student population, lot size and availability and the possible future use of existing sites. In combining St. Paul and St. Raphael, the need to address the declining enrolment of St. John school would still exist.

The opportunity to address the declining enrolment as well as aging facilities through Ministry Funding is only available for a specified period of time. In order to try and provide equitable learning environments for all of our students, we felt that we needed to address all schools that could potentially benefit from this opportunity.

## QUESTIONS:

- What about the uniforms?
- Uniforms??
- How does 2 uniforms create unity?

## ANSWER:

Uniforms are in existence at both St. Paul and St. John Catholic Elementary School. If this proposed plan is approved, the new school community would decide whether to continue to have a school uniform. The Transition Committee would discuss a logical timeline in which families would be able to utilize their current school uniform at the new school site. The only major difference in the uniform would be the school crest which is something that would be discussed to see how that might be dealt with.

## QUESTIONS:

- Is there Wi-Fi in portables?
- What is the storage situation for portables?
- Will St. Paul students be temporarily put in portables
- 2 portables @ St. John's at beginning
  - Why was that left out of the presentation??
- Transition year is not safe to have 9 portables at out St. Paul's location
- Where will the portables go on St. John property. Will they take over play area

## ANSWERS:

Wi-Fi is accessible in portables.

During the transition year, appropriate age students from both St. Paul and St. John would be in portables. In most schools, students from grade 4 – 6 would be those who are in portables.

A 6 room addition to the current St. John Catholic Elementary school would potentially require a maximum of 1 portable on site for the first year. After the first year, our projections show there would not be a need to have any portables on site. This portable would be placed in a location that would maximize play space. The location would be on the pavement area.

## QUESTIONS:

- My kindergarden child is anxious in large group settings. Where would you put the kindergarden children in the transition year at St. Pauls.
- What will you do to avoid psychological effects on our kids.
- Are St. John's (staff and teachers) going to St. Paul's – who decides
- How will our kids see this in \$
- You say its to their benefit but is it?
- Really is this all about the money or our kids?
- How are teacher placements being decided? Will parents have input?

## ANSWER:

During the transition year, Kindergarten children would be placed in the school in a classroom. The number of students in the classroom would meet the Ministry mandated averages.

As with any change, as a school system we would be ensuring that students are provided with information well in advance as well as looking at strategies that would help in easing the transition. There would be a number of ways in which we would look at bringing students together. If students are having difficulty, we would work with parents and school support staff to assist students in developing strategies to help in adjusting to the change.

All of St. John's staff would be going to St. Paul during the transition year as the number of staff required would not change.

We have tried to articulate the benefits that students would get in the proposed plan. This is about trying to provide a learning environment that is equitable to others in our system with updated facilities and an increase in the number of staff that provides extra opportunities. The funding that is available from the Ministry would allow us to meet these objectives.

Teacher placements would be looked at through the Board and the Teachers' Association to ensure that a system is in place for this type of situation. We do not see a change in the need for classroom teacher unless there are more than required specialty type teachers.

## QUESTIONS:

### **Traffic/Safety/Parking:**

How will the increase in traffic on Brant St. Affect

- a) Student safety
- b) Drop off/pick up

Where will additional parking be when St. John lot is already full?

How will be pick up/drop off kids in small St. Johns parking lot with all those busses?

★Accident #'s for Brant St. (ie. speeding, running red lights, hit & runs) Police Reports

Traffic congestion when there is a funeral

No option to expand onsite parking @ St. John's because parish owns and rents parking space.

Traffic a big problem at St. John's

Is there a plan for traffic congestion?

Concern for student safety @ times of pickup and drop off

What about the inadequate St. John parking lot, owned by the church? Used for funerals, etc.? How will it accommodate the 260+ more students & parents if they choose to drive their kids to school and not bus them?

## ANSWERS

There are no current traffic studies for this location. Should this plan be approved, a traffic study as well as a number of other requirements will be completed as part of the Municipality's approval process.

## QUESTIONS:

### Bussing:

What will be the DISTANCE to bus stops? How long will kids wait for bus?

Have bus routes been mapped out & times from boundaries to include all stops → please put real time numbers not averages → min → max

How do you figure 14 mins. bus time? It takes me longer to drive that w/o traffic

How do you know everyone will take the bus? (If more parents choose to drive this will increase traffic and congestions. This also raises safety concerns.)

Where will bus stops be

Travel time exaggerated def not 14 minutes

What is maximum bus time?

What is the impact on student physical health for bussing vs walking?

Average distance for students to new school will be **2.6** km

★ Average means all students added together and divided. This is not accurate. The further distance is almost **5.7** km. How will you bus students for only 14 minutes 5 km w stops? If it takes further to drive with no traffic + stops.

The St. John proposal will make almost the entire population of St. Paul be bussed and 50-60% of the "new school" Have you thought about what this means on snow days, what this means for extra curricular participation? Kids on strict bus schedules cannot stay for extra curriculars!

## ANSWERS:

Transportation data has been provided as an estimate only at this point. All routes and stops have not been established, but based on HSTS operating procedure, stops for elementary students are within 0.8 km of home.



HSTS operating procedure states that elementary students should not exceed 60 minutes of travel time staff believe that this proposal provides transportation times well below that; 14 minutes on average, 30 minutes at the high end.

More information on transportation is available at [www.haltonbus.ca](http://www.haltonbus.ca)

### **QUESTION:**

What is expected lifespan of fancy new school? Can the students expect to stay there for the rest of their elementary career?

### **ANSWER:**

The lifespan of a new facility is between 40 to 50 years. After that, facility repairs, maintenance and modernization improvements become very costly.

### **QUESTION:**

How realistic is the proposed drawing of overall school concept? Very Optimistic on paper!

### **ANSWER:**

The sketches are in concept at this time. If approved, the school would likely be oriented as shown, but final design and finishes would be contingent on achieving costing, structural and permitting criteria.

### **QUESTION:**

What will happen to property values with no CS option in Southwest Burlington

### **ANSWER:**

As a school board, our focus is on providing a quality education for the students in our care. We do not have information related to property values, nor would such information come into play when making decisions about the education of our students.



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southwest QEW School Project**

# **APPENDIX F**

**From:** Elizabeth Davis [REDACTED]  
**Date:** March 8, 2016 at 9:55:40 PM EST  
**To:** "Meed Ward, Marianne" [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** SUSAN TRITES <[susantrites@cogeco.ca](mailto:susantrites@cogeco.ca)>, "[dawsonp@hcdsb.org](mailto:dawsonp@hcdsb.org)" <[dawsonp@hcdsb.org](mailto:dawsonp@hcdsb.org)>, "[iantomasia@hcdsb.org](mailto:iantomasia@hcdsb.org)" <[iantomasia@hcdsb.org](mailto:iantomasia@hcdsb.org)>, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject: Re: Concerned Parent regarding Catholic Education in South Burlington**

Thank you Marianne for your response and your support for our community. I also appreciate that your email was not a "form" email. I have received enough of those. I'm not sure if you made it or not but if you didn't it was very full. Unfortunately they were not taking questions or statements so I couldn't share your thoughts to the larger group. We had to write questions down within our tables. They will reportedly be providing answers in a week or so on line.

Disappointed that our leaders in the Catholic Board are conceding to declining enrollment without trying to take steps to increase it first. I did have some conversations but this did not appear to be a priority. Tim Overholt was there and did fairly well, he tried to express this was a difficult situation. Unfortunately he was followed by Fred, the boards "numbers" guy. He did not make any friends, he had a horrible attitude and his approach was wrong for this crowd. He kept referring to our children as "pupil spaces"!

I'm trying to absorb it all. One message was heard over and over. If we have to change, we will change to public.

On to the next stage in the process

L

From: **elizabeth davis** [REDACTED]  
Date: Mon, Mar 7, 2016 at 6:17 AM  
Subject: Concerned Parent regarding Catholic Education in South Burlington  
To: [dawsonp@hcdsb.org](mailto:dawsonp@hcdsb.org)  
Cc: [REDACTED] [tritess@hcdsb.org](mailto:tritess@hcdsb.org),  
[REDACTED]

Hello Paula,

I have already sent the below inquiry to my trustee Susan Trites but was not satisfied with her response so I am going up the chain. My family is one of those who will be affected by the potential amalgamation of St. Paul's School.

After reading the Burlington Post articles this weekend and then Caroline Alphonso's in the Globe and Mail, I am curious why the Halton Catholic District School board isn't doing more to increase the enrolment of our catholic schools and instead are conceding to the potential that enrolment will decline. When companies notice a change in their customer base they tend to course correct and meet the needs of their customers. Why is the Halton Catholic Board not looking at ways to increase enrolment before uprooting 200+ families at St. Pauls school alone (not including those affected by the closures of St. Raphael's and St. Patricks)?

Why are you not considering including French Immersion in South Burlington? Why are you not looking at why the enrolment is potentially going to decline and then adjust? Is it possible that the young families of today are no longer baptizing their children within their child's first years of life? Is it not an option to revert to how things were done many years ago when you didn't have to have your child baptized immediately but were provided with a grace period? I have heard the "whispers" of an amalgamation of the Public and Catholic boards. If you continue to not address the needs of your customers then you will certainly continue to see a decline and then the greater amalgamation of the boards would be a reasonable one.

I am already aware that there is a meeting on Wednesday night. However, I am also aware that we are NOT allowed to ask questions and those that try to obtain answers have been asked to leave (as per the most recent St. Raphael's meeting).

In the event you have not seen it, I have attached the Globe and Mail article for your review and the [Change.org](https://www.change.org/p/st-paul-st-raphael-schools-need-saving-help-us) petition (with almost 700 signatures) started by another concerned St. Paul mother.

<https://www.change.org/p/st-paul-st-raphael-schools-need-saving-help-us>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/behind-the-french-immersion-crush-schools-and-parents-worry-about-shrinking-englishclassrooms/article29031082/>

I look forward to hearing from you,

Elizabeth Davis

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Elizabeth Davis [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Thu, Mar 3, 2016 at 9:37 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: St. Paul school  
**To:** [tritess@hcdsb.org](mailto:tritess@hcdsb.org)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]

Just highlighting this email again for you as we have not yet been able to connect. As the meeting is in March 8th I was hoping we could in advance of that.

Thank you

Elizabeth

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Elizabeth Davis [REDACTED]  
**Date:** March 1, 2016 at 5:31:39 PM EST  
**To:** [tritess@hcdsb.org](mailto:tritess@hcdsb.org)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** St. Paul school

Hello

We are hoping you could provide us with your stance on the amalgamation recommendation of St. Paul and St. John's schools. We are extremely concerned about this and the potential risk on Catholic education in south Burlington. Many parents from St. Paul are seriously considering (if they already haven't decided) transferring to the public board. Not only would this have an impact on the elementary schools but ultimately the area high school.

Not only are we upset about the possible closure of our neighborhood school but the poor choice of expanding St. John's when we have double (plus) the green space at St. Paul's. Also, our children regularly talk about the high school student volunteers in their school. Clearly this opportunity for Assumption students will be lost with this change. That is a missed opportunity for both the high school students and our elementary students.

We are extremely interested in understanding your perspective on this and where your support is directed.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth & Jeff Davis

**From:** David Landry [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** March 2, 2016 11:38 AM  
**To:** lantomasi, Arlene  
**Subject:** Letter of Opposition to Closing St. Paul School  
The Landry Family  
[REDACTED]

March 2, 2016

Arlene lantomasi  
Burlington Trustee Wards 1 and 2, Vice Chair of the Board  
905-632-6314 X7182  
[iantomasia@hcdsb.org](mailto:iantomasia@hcdsb.org)

Dear Ms. lantomasi,

We would like to express our opposition toward the closing of St. Paul Catholic Elementary School in Burlington as part of the Pupil Accommodation Review process.

I (David) have had the privilege of attending St. Paul school for my education (1979-1988) and graduated from Assumption (Class of 1993) having lived across from St. Paul park for 25 years. I was very fortunate to have received a stellar education at these two schools and when it came time to settle down and raise a family, I chose to live in this area. I wanted our children to attend the schools that I found to be instrumental in my development and live close to my parents / their grandparents. My experience is not unique as I chat with many parents after school in the parking lot who were classmates of mine at St. Paul a generation ago.

Our children aged 10 and 12 have been a part of the St. Paul community since the start of their education in Junior Kindergarten. They have thoroughly enjoyed their experience at St. Paul. They have made meaningful connections with many fellow students. We have been thoroughly impressed with the wide range of extracurricular activities and after school programs offered to the students. St. Paul has a unique community feel and consequently, our children feel comfortable with every staff member because each one knows our children by name, whether they have taught them previously or not. We have also forged many long-lasting friendships among the parents of the St. Paul School community. We believe that this unique atmosphere of inclusion and personal connections would be diminished in a larger school population.

Our greatest concern, however, is the elimination of two Catholic elementary schools (St. Paul and St. Raphael) for many kilometres in southwest Burlington. Our parish church, St. Raphael's, will suffer a devastating blow if it loses the only two Catholic elementary schools it serves. The phenomenal liturgical staff of St. Raphael Parish are very active in our school community and this connection between home, school, and parish would be lost if St. Paul and St. Raphael close. This decision will have a ripple effect on the livelihood of this parish in the diocese. This decision will discourage young families from residing in this section of Burlington given the distance to nearest Catholic school (Ascension / St.

John) and will inherently lead to a decline in the congregation. We feel particularly sorry for the new priests at our church (Father Frank and Father Francis) as they embark on many projects in the church. In particular, they have a major undertaking to fund a new elevator project. I have doubts about donating to such a worthy cause when the long term sustainability of the parish will be in peril.

We have concerns about the ability of the St. John site to accommodate the well over 500 students that would be in attendance at an amalgamated school. The play yard at St. John will be quite small according to the architectural plans for the renovated school. The downtown location is less than ideal, and the traffic from busing and car drop-offs presents a huge safety concern, as well as a health and wellness concern. We will not place our children on a bus for what will be a significant number of minutes per day in commute time. The great distance to St. John from our home would ensure that they would be driven to school every day, which is in direct contradiction to the Board's and our focus on health, wellness, and what is best for our environment.

We are also very concerned that a number of families will choose to switch to the Halton Public Board to continue to be able to walk to an elementary school that is established in our community. There are three public elementary schools (Tecumseh, Ryerson, and Tuck) within walking distance of St. Paul which are far more attractive alternatives to placing children on long bus rides, without giving them the opportunity to walk to school and play with friends at the school's park area after school.

If this plan for amalgamation is approved, it will have significant long term consequences for the sustainability of Catholic education in south Burlington. The families lost to the Halton District School Board will likely not attend Assumption high school, choosing to transition with their new friends in public school to Nelson or Central high schools. The long term viability of Assumption Catholic Secondary School will be threatened if it loses its two closest feeder schools.

The Catholic Board will be forced to deal with the loss of potentially hundreds of families and their educational tax dollars (our 2016 contribution is greater than \$2,000) which will be directed to the public board if the amalgamation is approved. Unfortunately, we believe this decision is short sighted and misguided. The belief that our Catholic faith will force us to send our children on prolonged bus rides, break up potential friendships made and question our decision where to raise a family is short sighted.

Having lived in the St. Paul community for 40+ years, we can assure that young families continue to move into this neighbourhood. These children will need schools to attend. The closing of St. Paul and St. Raphael will drastically impact the ability of families to raise their children in the Catholic faith. The argument to close South Burlington Catholic schools has been raised before and quashed. I believe this decision will have a far greater impact than resulting in a bus ride for St. Paul students. I hope you will see the voice of reason and vote NO on this issue.

Sincerely,

David Landry (St. Paul Class of 1988 / Assumption Class of 1993)

Jennifer Landry (St. Patrick Class of 1989 / Assumption Class of 1994)

Megan Landry (St. Paul Class of 2017 / Assumption Class of 2021)

William Landry (St. Paul Class of 2020?)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 8, 2016 2:22 PM  
**To:** Ross, Danielle <[RossD@hcdsb.org](mailto:RossD@hcdsb.org)>; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: St Pauls School Closure Question

Ms Dawson:

My name is Mike Logan and my wife and I are residents of Ward 4. We have attempted to contact our Trustees with the note below, but have been unsuccessful. I was hoping that you could provide an answer to the question below.

Sincerely,

Mike Logan

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [tritess@hcdsb.org](mailto:tritess@hcdsb.org); [michaelj@hcdsb.org](mailto:michaelj@hcdsb.org); [REDACTED]  
**CC:** [djiannir@hcdsb.org](mailto:djiannir@hcdsb.org)  
**Subject:** St Pauls School Closure Question  
**Date:** Mon, 7 Mar 2016 19:24:21 +0000

Ms. Tritess/Ms. Michael:

My wife and I are residents of ward 4, and in fact all three of our children attended St. Paul's school. We are concerned with the proposed closure of the school as one of the alternatives currently proposed by the board

Our first home was in ward 2, and in the late 90's early 2000 period our oldest daughter was involved in the school boundary re-alignment between St. Pauls and St John's. Initially our primary school district was St. Johns, but because of changing demographics we were part of the group that had their children moved to St. Pauls.

There were a number of arguments presented to the parents as reasons for the required change, and I do understand that over time demographics do change forcing changes in public planning.

However, one of the reasons for the move from St Johns to St Pauls was the fact that the school board did not actually own the majority of the property at St. Johns. As I recall during the public consultations at St Pauls it was revealed that all the property between the Creek bed and the back of the school (backing onto Courtland Ave) at St. Johns was the property of the Diocese and not the property of the school board, which meant that the playground area owned at St Johns was very small.

I am curious as to whether this situation in terms of ownership has changed between the school board and the Diocese?



If the ownership situation has not changed then I believe that from a playground/outdoor accessibility perspective that of the 3 schools in the discussion that St. Pauls by far has the best outdoor facilities, as the majority of St. Raph's and St. Johns are asphalt.

In addition I believe that St. Pauls has benefited and continues to benefit from the close relationship with Assumption high school. In addition to the excellent outdoor facilities at Assumption High school, the two schools have from what I have witnessed a tremendous working relationship, that neither of the other two schools currently benefit from.

I do look forward to your response on the ownership issue as it was a significant factor in making boundary changes during the last realignment of school boundaries and I believe that it is just as important in now in determining the allocation of school resources.

I would be please to answer any questions that either of you may have from a parent/taxpayer perspective.

Sincerely

Michael Logan, B. Comm.  
905-536-6010

Catherine VanHeukelom  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

January 26, 2016

Dear Arlene Iantomasi,

I was extremely dismayed to learn through our local newspaper of the proposed closing of our Burlington schools. I am a retired teacher with the HCDSB who once taught at St. Paul's, whose son attended St. Paul's and whose children are now students at the school. Our son and his wife purchased their home in the St. Paul's area because of the proximity to the school, and the fact that the children can walk to school.

The student and parent population of St. Paul's has contributed to a very close knit student and family community, as well as a principal who can greet every child by name.

I certainly don't feel that my Grandson's and their sister before them have had their programming needs and learning environment compromised because they may not have had the resources of the other schools. I am curious to enquire what specific resources you claim St. Paul's is lacking and how will your changes improve student education.

To uproot the students from St. Paul's school and bus them across the city to St. John's school to a totally new school environment is unreasonable. Mr. Antony Danko feels that these proposals are "difficult to argue with". I can assure Mr. Danko that you will be met with vigorous parent opposition, and that you will have families moving to the public school system.

The short time frame for parental input of the board proposal and the subsequent decision is inexcusable. It is imperative that the board holds information sessions in a large enough venue so the parents of each of the schools scheduled for closure can have their concerns heard.

The Burlington Post article gives no information regarding the fate of the St. Paul building and if the move to St. John's is only for the 2017-2018 school year.

Finally, with the proposed year and a half turnaround for these plans to be completed, I am under no delusion that decisions to move forward with this "proposal" are already in place and it is clear that parental input is only a formality.

I am hoping that with extensive community involvement and the boards concerted effort to explore alternative solutions, our Burlington schools can remain open.

Sincerely,

*Catherine Van Heukelom*

**From:** Tenessa VanHeukelom [REDACTED]  
**Date:** February 4, 2016 at 11:08:12 AM EST  
**To:** <[iantomasia@hcdsb.org](mailto:iantomasia@hcdsb.org)>  
**Subject:** Loss of Catholics

Ms. Iantomasia

We are writing to you in regards to the proposal to close St. Paul school and merge it with St. John school in downtown Burlington. As a taxpayer and parents of students at St. Paul School we strongly oppose this decision. Our understanding is that you will also close St Raphael school on New Street effectively eliminating any Catholic elementary school for an almost 8km distance between Appleby line and Brant Street. This will force our children as well as hundreds of others to bus to school as they will have no ability to walk or ride bikes to school. We cannot see how this is a logical and healthy choice for our children. In an era of increased child obesity, heart disease and diabetes when we should be promoting health and wellness among our children I cannot understand why the board would think that forcing children to bus to school would be seen as the right choice. Our children have been in the Catholic system for 15 years. My oldest going from kindergarten to grade 12, attending Assumption HS and now in college. As well as two children currently in grades four and one and an infant son who would be attending school in 2 years. We have seen the fluctuation of attendance in the school go from low to requiring portables on site at St. Paul's. The potential for new students in the future is already here. As many have moved/are moving into the area with young children and have voiced that they would be considering a Catholic school in the area. By removing schools in the area parents will choose to go to the public board. This is not speculation but fact. When families move into the neighborhood they look for a nearby school. If we just moved into this neighborhood tomorrow we too would go to the public board as opposed to putting our kindergartner on a school bus when a public school is within walking distance, and we have been in the Catholic system for years including as children ourselves. What would you do as a parent? Not everyone has the means or ability to drive their children to school every day. As well many parents who are currently in St. Paul and St. Raphael have stated that they would also switch to the public school as opposed to bussing their small children such a far distance. This is very disheartening. With St. Paul School currently being at a population of around 270 we cannot understand why it would be considered for closure at all. As a member a parent Council we have implemented many technologies in the school including smart boards iPads and have plans for further technology in the future. I do not feel that having my children in a new large 'super school' is necessary or will enhance their education. On the contrary being in a small school has allowed them to build relationships with their teachers, their peers, clergy and other parents that I know will continue into their teens. As it did with our daughter. But if consolidating schools is necessary I would think that the logical solution would be to merge St Raphael school and St. Paul School as they share not only a Parish but a community. I know that this has been brought forth in the past when closures have been discussed. This would allow many students in the area to continue to walk to school as the distance between them is quite close, they could also remain at Saint Raphael parish church which is built strong relationships with the students over the years. We sincerely urge you to strongly think about this proposal and to vote against it in the best interest of Catholic education in South Burlington, We would hate to lose our Catholic students to the public board.

David and Tenessa VanHeukelom

From: Tenessa VanHeukelom [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2016 11:14 AM  
To: Rabenda, Diane  
Subject: Unwise proposal

Ms. Rabenda

We are writing to you in regards to the proposal to close St. Paul school and merge it with St. John school in downtown Burlington. As a taxpayer and parents of students at St. Paul School we strongly oppose this decision. Our understanding is that you will also close St Raphael school on New Street effectively eliminating any Catholic elementary school for an almost 8km distance between Appleby line and Brant Street. This will force our children as well as hundreds of others to bus to school as they will have no ability to walk or ride bikes to school. We cannot see how this is a logical and healthy choice for our children. In an era of increased child obesity, heart disease and diabetes when we should be promoting health and wellness among our children I cannot understand why the board would think that forcing children to bus to school would be seen as the right choice. Our children have been in the Catholic system for 15 years. My oldest going from kindergarten to grade 12, attending Assumption HS and now in college. As well as two children currently in grades four and one and an infant son who would be attending school in 2 years. We have seen the fluctuation of attendance in the school go from low to requiring portables on site at St. Paul's. The potential for new students in the future is already here. As many have moved/are moving into the area with young children and have voiced that they would be considering a Catholic school in the area. By removing schools in the area parents will choose to go to the public board. This is not speculation but fact. When families move into the neighborhood they look for a nearby school. If we just moved into this neighborhood tomorrow we too would go to the public board as opposed to putting our kindergartner on a school bus when a public school is within walking distance, and we have been in the Catholic system for years including as children ourselves. What would you do as a parent? Not everyone has the means or ability to drive their children to school every day. As well many parents who are currently in St. Paul and St. Raphael have stated that they would also switch to the public school as opposed to bussing their small children such a far distance. This is very disheartening. With St. Paul School currently being at a population of around 270 we cannot understand why it would be considered for closure at all. As a member a parent Council we have implemented many technologies in the school including smart boards iPads and have plans for further technology in the future. I do not feel that having my children in a new large 'super school' is necessary or will enhance their education. On the contrary being in a small school has allowed them to build relationships with their teachers, their peers, clergy and other parents that I know will continue into their teens. As it did with our daughter. But if consolidating schools is necessary I would think that the logical solution would be to merge St Raphael school and St. Paul School as they share not only a Parish but a community. I know that this has been brought forth in the past when closures have been discussed. This would allow many students in the area to continue to walk to school as the distance between them is quite close, they could also remain at Saint Raphael parish church which is built strong relationships with the students over the years. We sincerely urge you to strongly think about this proposal and to vote against it in the best interest of Catholic education in South Burlington, We would hate to lose our Catholic students to the public board.

David and Tenessa VanHeukelom

**From:** Tenessa VanHeukelom [REDACTED]  
**Date:** February 4, 2016 at 11:24:51 AM EST  
**To:** <[michaelj@hcdsb.org](mailto:michaelj@hcdsb.org)>  
**Subject:** Proposal

Ms. Michael

We are writing to you in regards to the proposal to close St. Paul school and merge it with St. John school in downtown Burlington. As a taxpayer and parents of students at St. Paul School we strongly oppose this decision. Our understanding is that you will also close St Raphael school on New Street effectively eliminating any Catholic elementary school for an almost 8km distance between Appleby line and Brant Street. This will force our children as well as hundreds of others to bus to school as they will have no ability to walk or ride bikes to school. We cannot see how this is a logical and healthy choice for our children. In an era of increased child obesity, heart disease and diabetes when we should be promoting health and wellness among our children I cannot understand why the board would think that forcing children to bus to school would be seen as the right choice. Our children have been in the Catholic system for 15 years. My oldest going from kindergarten to grade 12, attending Assumption HS and now in college. As well as two children currently in grades four and one and an infant son who would be attending school in 2 years. We have seen the fluctuation of attendance in the school go from low to requiring portables on site at St. Paul's. The potential for new students in the future is already here. As many have moved/are moving into the area with young children and have voiced that they would be considering a Catholic school in the area. By removing schools in the area parents will choose to go to the public board. This is not speculation but fact. When families move into the neighborhood they look for a nearby school. If we just moved into this neighborhood tomorrow we too would go to the public board as opposed to putting our kindergartner on a school bus when a public school is within walking distance, and we have been in the Catholic system for years including as children ourselves. What would you do as a parent? Not everyone has the means or ability to drive their children to school every day. As well many parents who are currently in St. Paul and St. Raphael have stated that they would also switch to the public school as opposed to bussing their small children such a far distance. This is very disheartening. With St. Paul School currently being at a population of around 270 we cannot understand why it would be considered for closure at all. As a member a parent Council we have implemented many technologies in the school including smart boards iPads and have plans for further technology in the future. I do not feel that having my children in a new large 'super school' is necessary or will enhance their education. On the contrary being in a small school has allowed them to build relationships with their teachers, their peers, clergy and other parents that I know will continue into their teens. As it did with our daughter. But if consolidating schools is necessary I would think that the logical solution would be to merge St Raphael school and St. Paul School as they share not only a Parish but a community. I know that this has been brought forth in the past when closures have been discussed. This would allow many students in the area to continue to walk to school as the distance between them is quite close, they could also remain at Saint Raphael parish church which is built strong relationships with the students over the years. We sincerely urge you to strongly think about this proposal and to vote against it in the best interest of Catholic education in South Burlington, We would hate to lose our Catholic students to the public board.

David and Tenessa VanHeukelom

**From:** Tenessa VanHeukelom [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** March-10-16 12:15 PM  
**To:** Trites, Susan <[TritesS@hcdsb.org](mailto:TritesS@hcdsb.org)>  
**Cc:** Michael, Jane <[MichaelJ@hcdsb.org](mailto:MichaelJ@hcdsb.org)>; Dawson, Paula <[DawsonP@hcdsb.org](mailto:DawsonP@hcdsb.org)>; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Community Meeting

Hello Susan

Thank you for reading our letter and listening to our concerns. I would like to discuss some things I noticed at the recent community meeting on March 8 at Assumption High school for the amalgamation of St. John and Paul Catholic schools. I'm reluctant to call it a consultation meeting as consultation implies feedback and questions that are used to make decisions, although I hope they are. Aside from the claims of a 14 minute bus ride, and a maximum distance of 4 km to the new school which are already not accurate. I and many parents were so angry by the lot size comparisons.

They had in that booklet that St. John's lot size is 1.9 acres but if you add in the adjacent park owned by the diocese that kids can use it's more like USUABLE 3.9 acres. They claim they spoke with the diocese to gain permission for the children to use that green space and in turn they included it in their 'pink shaded area' of usable space in the lot size.

But St. Pauls lot size of 4.7 acres was reduced by removing our piece of fitness track that overlaps our lot and is shared with the high school. Then this made our USABLE lot size only closer to 2.97. If they can approach the diocese and ask for permission to use their green space why then would they not have approached the high school of Assumption to ask the same permission? Even though our children use this space every day at recess after school etc. already, and such permission is already an understood agreement. Sure they could get this in writing to formalize it.

In reality if they included the 'entire' track they would probably be tripling our lot size.

I found this to be a very deceptive.

Of course the adjacent Parkland was not even considered in that lot comparison. When I asked about the possibility of purchasing that land as well and that I had heard that the city would be open to it. I wasn't receiving receptive responses.

I would also like to speak to the point made by the Halton Catholic District school Board that a larger school means more staff and resources for our children which in turn means more extracurricular activities and opportunities

First off. Teachers are not mandated or required to sign up or run extracurricular activities. So it does not matter how many teachers there are in the school it matters how many choose to run activities. If a large school has 40 teachers but only 2 are participating in extracurriculars, and a

smaller school has 10 teachers and 8 of them are participating in extracurricular's then which school is providing more opportunities for students?

In addition to that by busing an entire population of the school, which you would be doing with St. Paul's students bussed to St. John's, you are limiting the ability for many if not all of the students to participate in any extracurricular activities after school. As they would have to adhere to strict bus schedules.

St. Paul's community has very active teacher involvement in extracurriculars as well as a very active parent volunteer community which means our children have an abundant amount of opportunity to be involved in activities in and outside the school hours. I find it interesting to note that The Council chair of St. John's was recently quoted in our local newspaper as saying that they had a limited number of volunteers, implying that St. John's struggles to provide the same services to their children. Will new St. John staff be hired by the board at St. John's, will there be new parents there that are willing to volunteer? if not how can you make the claim that they will be more opportunities there? Unless you're relying on the very active St. Paul community to pick up the slack.

This may not even happen because by moving our school such a distance away a lot of the same active volunteers in St. Paul School may not have the capability to volunteer in the new school.

What about 21st-century learning? This is something I keep hearing from the board over and over. Our children will have access to 21st-century learning. When I asked if this meant our children would be receiving new computers, smart boards, iPads, is state-of-the-art technology. I was told no. Our current technology at St. Paul School would be brought over to the new school. Since my children already have access to a science room, an art room, and have a wonderful music program at St. Paul School. I guess "21st-century" learning means new architecture. I don't know how having glass hallways and atriums will contribute to my child's academic success.

But probably the most disturbing thing that occurred for me during the community meeting with my discussion with the young woman from the board it was brought over to answer my questions. When I asked her if it was accurate that after the addition of St. John school is added there would be two portables on site right away because we would already be exceeding capacity from the start. She told me yes. So I asked her what if you're wrong? What if you're wrong about declining enrollment numbers? Her response to me was "more portables I guess". This response greatly upset me. The board own proposal states that too portables on St. John site are not recommended nor safe in the long term. That the site is not large enough and is not suitable. So her response but not only with those two portables remain with that more would be added was surprising and upsetting. When I asked her to clarify her statements, and if what she was saying was that regardless of the board's proposal saying this was not a viable or safe option in the future would they still bring our children into portables on site, I was greeted with a blank stare and I reiteration but numbers would decline. Since the board's predictions for declining numbers are based on trends over the last 10 years, the JK enrollment, and their clean birthrates. I'm reluctant to believe their data could be accurate. This does not take into account that many parents do not enroll their children in junior kindergarten or even senior kindergarten as they are not mandatory grades. Many choose not to enroll their children in school until grade one which would change the data. Further to that not all infants are baptized until right before

school age so I do not see how this birthday is to determine Catholic students in the future. If they were to look to current trends and not pass trans they would see that we are in the midst of the housing bubble, as well as very high demand for Family homes in the South Burlington area particularly around St. Paul school. This is not a condo and townhouse development area, this is primarily detached family homes. Real estate data shows that homes are selling like crazy with turnover been 30 days or less on most sales. Eliminating a school in this area would be a serious mistake.

I keep looking for the positives my children will experience by moving to St. John school. I would like to be happy with this possible decision and think it is in the best interest of my children but I keep struggling to come up with any. If the board would offer us a proposal that offered my children the same opportunities and community resources they currently have I would be more than happy to listen to it. But instead my children are being offered a proposal that gives them a school site with less green space, more crowded classrooms, the loss of their community connections, no ability to walk or ride bikes to school, a daily commute that will add hours to their day and take away from the family time I receive with my children after school and before school, the loss of amazing teacher/staff relationships my children have with all staff at their school whether they've ever been taught by them or not, The amazing extracurricular programs and events offered by parents and staff, and of course the Parish connections to our neighboring school and Church community. My children may not do well socially at the new school site but addition to that they may actually academically suffer if they do not adjust. Many studies to say that children who move schools at a often perform less well academically. Not to mention the adverse effects of not being able to walk to school in their community.

As parents who have had 3 children in the Catholic board for 15 years starting from JK all the way through high school, and an infant who we hoped would attend his community Catholic school in the next two years you're so distressed to think we may have to seriously consider moving into the public system in our neighbourhood. We ourselves went to Catholic school, as did our parents before us, our family members have taught in the system. We would've loved to have remained for years to come. This is not just an emotional opposition to this proposal it is a logical one.

Concerned Parents in South Burlington

Tenessa and David VanHeukelom



**From:** Gina Vono [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** March-07-16 10:27 AM  
**To:** Dawson, Paula <[DawsonP@hcdsb.org](mailto:DawsonP@hcdsb.org)>; [REDACTED]  
Michael, Jane <[MichaelJ@hcdsb.org](mailto:MichaelJ@hcdsb.org)>; Iantomasi, Arlene <[IantomasiA@hcdsb.org](mailto:IantomasiA@hcdsb.org)>; SUSAN TRITES  
<[susantrites@cogeco.ca](mailto:susantrites@cogeco.ca)>; Trites, Susan <[TritesS@hcdsb.org](mailto:TritesS@hcdsb.org)>; Rowe, Mark <[RoweM@hcdsb.org](mailto:RoweM@hcdsb.org)>;  
Rabenda, Diane <[RabendaD@hcdsb.org](mailto:RabendaD@hcdsb.org)>; Danko, Anthony <[DankoA@hcdsb.org](mailto:DankoA@hcdsb.org)>; Karabela, Helena  
<[KarabelaH@hcdsb.org](mailto:KarabelaH@hcdsb.org)>; Marai, Paul <[MaraiP@hcdsb.org](mailto:MaraiP@hcdsb.org)>; Quinn, Anthony  
<[AnthonyQuinn@hcdsb.org](mailto:AnthonyQuinn@hcdsb.org)>  
**Subject:** VOTE NO!!!

Dear trustees,superintendants

I am writing a second letter to you , this time out of frustration and disappointment .. I keep hearing that nothing has been approved or decided with respect to the consolidation, yet I see nothing being done to answer our questions and provide us with another option . Furthermore the format chosen for the community meeting is appalling.!!! Families want to be heard and Voice our right to freedom of speech.. The fact that those directly involved are forced to remain "neutral" is outright bullying at it's finest..

Although a few of you have responded to some inquiries , The letters /emails and phone calls my fellow community members have submitted have barely been replied to . With all due respect , the responses we have gotten have been very generic and at minimum lacking any compassion or empathy. I can't imagine being in your position at this moment , Carrying the weight of every single child and family ( present and future ) affected by the choice on your shoulders .

This isn't just a question of " switching school locations"..the future and viability of this community is at stake!! We have entrusted you to make valuable decisions that affect the daily lives of our families . We beg you make the right choice and vote NO to this consolidation. Please don't be persuaded by bells and whistles which holds no value in the fundamentals of learning.

Imagine the community after the closure . After it's gone and the kids are bussed out, parents may be tempted to move to spare the kids the drudgery of the daily commute. Meanwhile, the absence of a school within walking distance in the community they left behind hampers efforts to attract newcomers and their families. Professionals with young children are prized economic assets that should be nurtured, not neutered.

Here's a little known fact, no matter their age or ethnic background children want to feel engaged at school.

They want to feel like they belong and that what they do at school matters., Not just to themselves, but to their parents and teachers too.

This was stressed at a recent joint council meeting that focussed on the importance of stability and healthy relationship assets .....

it was quoted that "relationships are the oxygen of human development" , keeping our small community school is invaluable to encourage a strong connection between our families our faith and our schools.

Research indicates that academic achievement is better in small compared to large schools.

Parents tend to be more involved in small schools, and many aspects of personal development are better in smaller than in large schools (e.g., sense of belonging, self concept) as are objective measures like attendance and future dropout rates.

For these reasons and many more, homes within the catchment area of desirable schools are in demand and more expensive.

( your home included)

The proposed site for expansion is less than half of the developmental criteria which presents many limitations. The impact on the students or the community have not been considered. Currently there is no imminent need to redirect students.

So rather than needlessly turning the lives of all those affected upside down, why not invest in what works, which is keeping our children local and keeping them stable.

Ask yourself what makes a community ?? Children , schools , churches .

Closing the school would be shortsighted and ineffective at the cost of our children's education being terribly impacted . why not bring new programs to south burlington catholic schools such as french immersion that would no doubt attract enrolment. Rather than making such a harsh decision to lose our schools why not try to fix the decline in numbers first. The options for this are endless.

The negative correlation between academic achievement and school switching is crucial !!!

It is our/your responsibility to place all students first when making any decision.

Help us support student achievement and keep our kids local ! VOTE NO!!! To the school closure proposal !!!!

Let us Keep our assets and more importantly let us **KEEP OUR CHILDREN LOCAL!!!**  
**DON'T FORCE US TO GO PUBLIC!!**

Regards,

March 10, 2016

To all Halton Catholic District School Board Trustees:

I attended the meeting held March 8, 2016 regarding the proposed closing and relocation of St. Paul School. I was thoroughly disappointed with the format of the meeting. In his opening remarks, Tim Overholt stated that “it was not our intention to stifle parental concerns”. Then, why were the parents not able to orally ask questions? The meeting should have had an impartial moderator who could have facilitated questions in an orderly manner.

It was quite evident that the board wanted autonomous control of the meeting and did stifle the right of concerned attendees to be given the opportunity to ask their questions. I have my doubts that the board’s plan to collate our written questions and concerns and post their response on the board website will offer any realistic answers to frustrated parents.

The St. Paul community has engaged in a vigorous campaign to keep their school open. They have expressed their numerous concerns to both board members and trustees about the proposed uprooting of their children to an unreasonable location. Unlike the Public school board, our schools have a strong connection to the communities within their neighbourhoods through the Catholic churches which serve our schools. I believe that losing so many schools in South Burlington will not only negatively affected the school communities, but also the Church’s within these neighbourhoods.

Unfortunately, it is clearly obvious that the board has set an agenda that they want pushed through in an extremely short time frame without adequate community involvement in the planning process. If this proposal is passes then Mr. Overholt’s comment that “we value the opinion of our Stakeholder’s” and the consultation meeting were nothing more than a sham.

As an elected trustee for your ward, I would expect you to vote no to this proposal. Your decision will not only affect hundreds of students, but the entire Catholic community in South Burlington.

Sincerely,

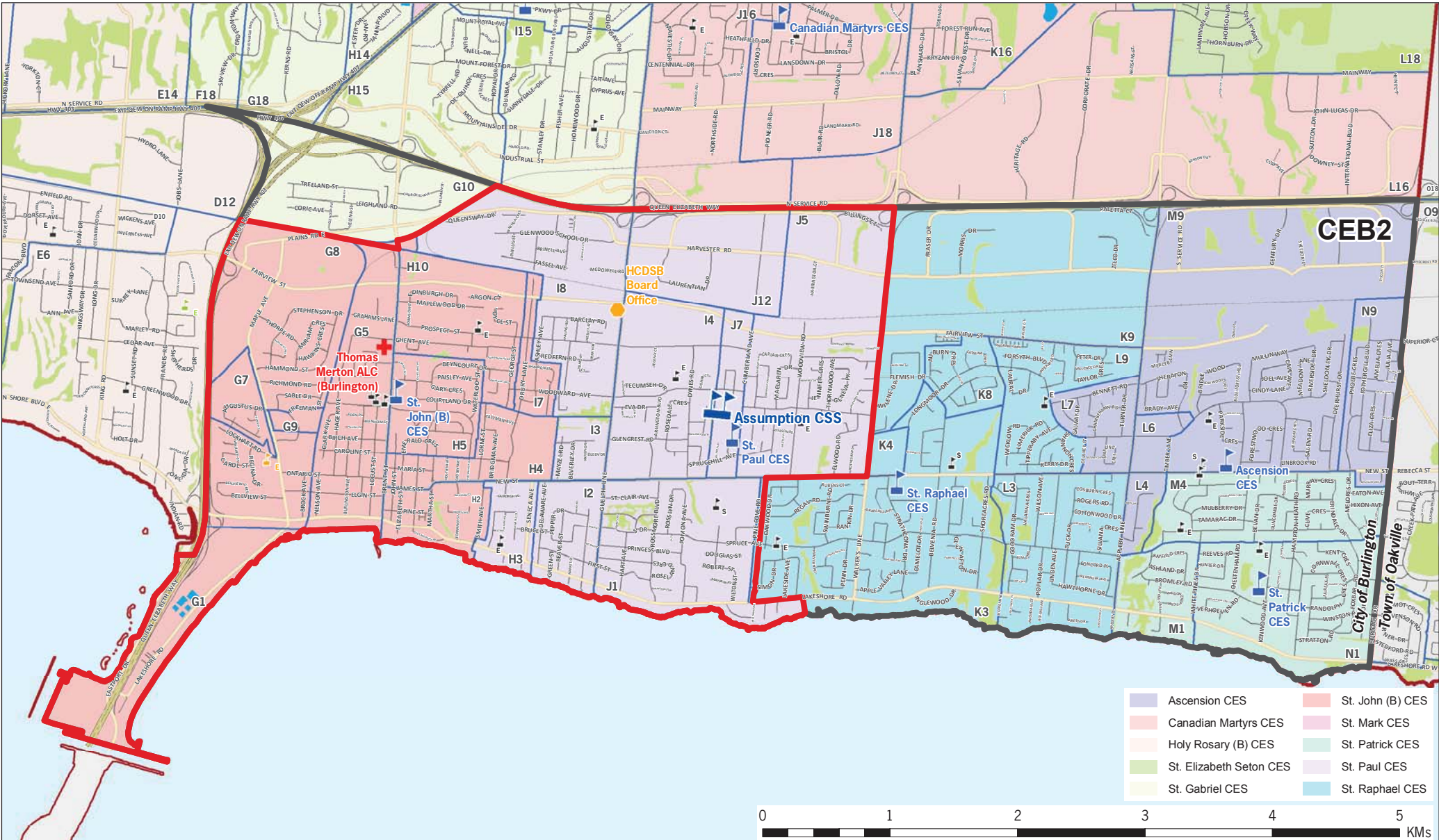
Catherine VanHeukelom

c.c. Tim Overholt, SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION HCDSB



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southwest QEW School Project**

# **APPENDIX G**

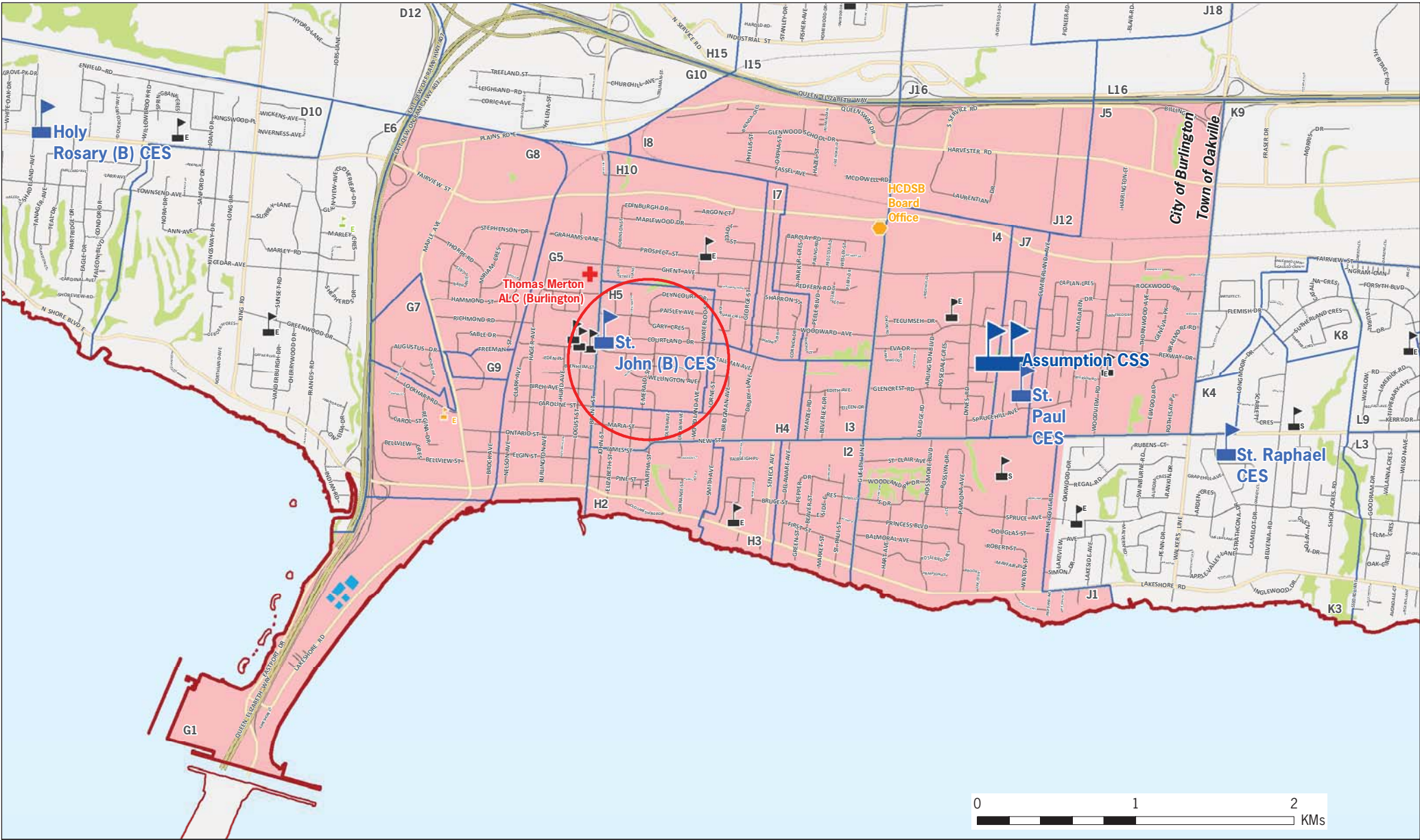





**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southwest QEW School Project**

# **APPENDIX H**
















## Proposed St. John (B) CES Attendance Boundary Burlington Southwest QEW Accommodation Review Area

The current street network was provided by the Regional Municipality of Halton and the Region assumes no responsibility or liability for its use or accuracy. Proposed roads are subject to change. It is the intention of the HCDSB to provide up-to-date and accurate information, and reasonable efforts have been made by the HCDSB to verify the information, however a degree of error or change is inherent. This information is distributed "as is" without warranty. HCDSB assumes no legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information. If you require additional information please contact the Planning Services Department at 905-632-6300 or visit [www.haltonbus.ca](http://www.haltonbus.ca) for additional school boundary information.

-  HCDSB Schools
-  HDSB Schools
-  CEB2 - Burlington South QEW RA

-  CS Viamonde Schools
-  CSDCCS Schools
-  Proposed Ascension CES Boundary

-  HCDSB Adult Learning Centre
-  HCDSB Administration



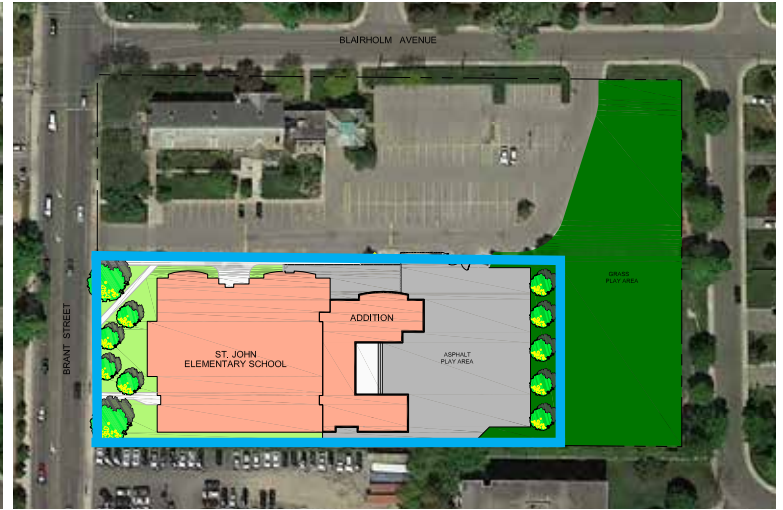
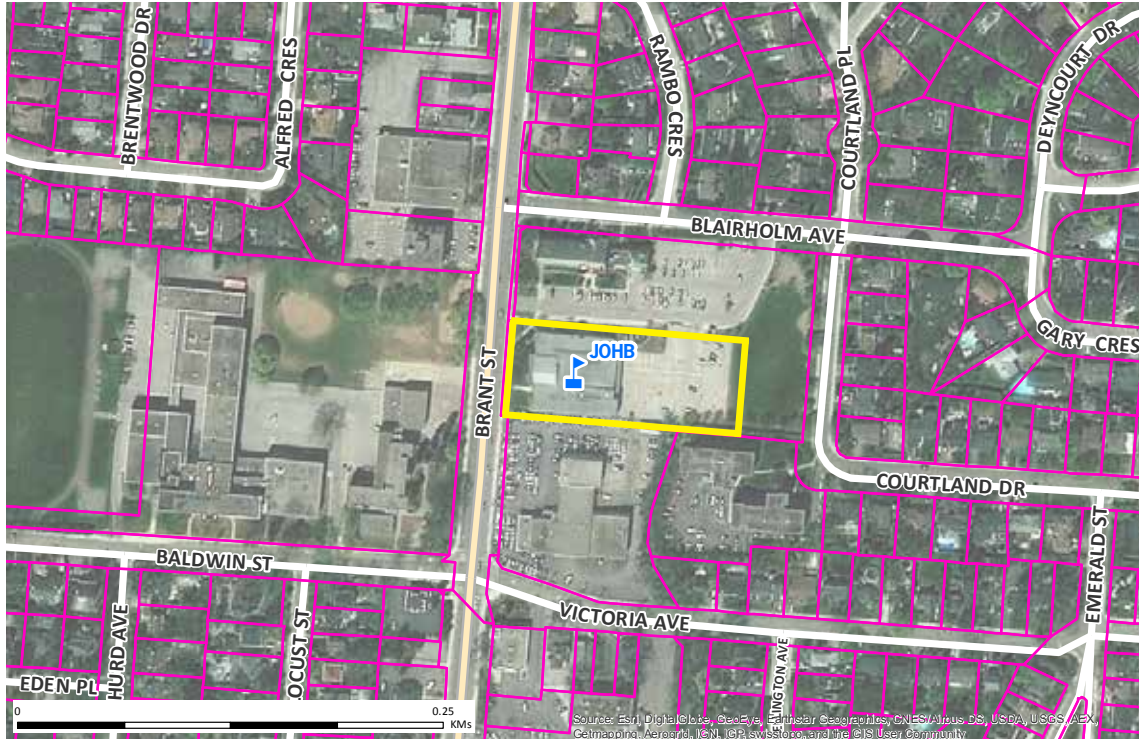


**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southwest QEW School Project**

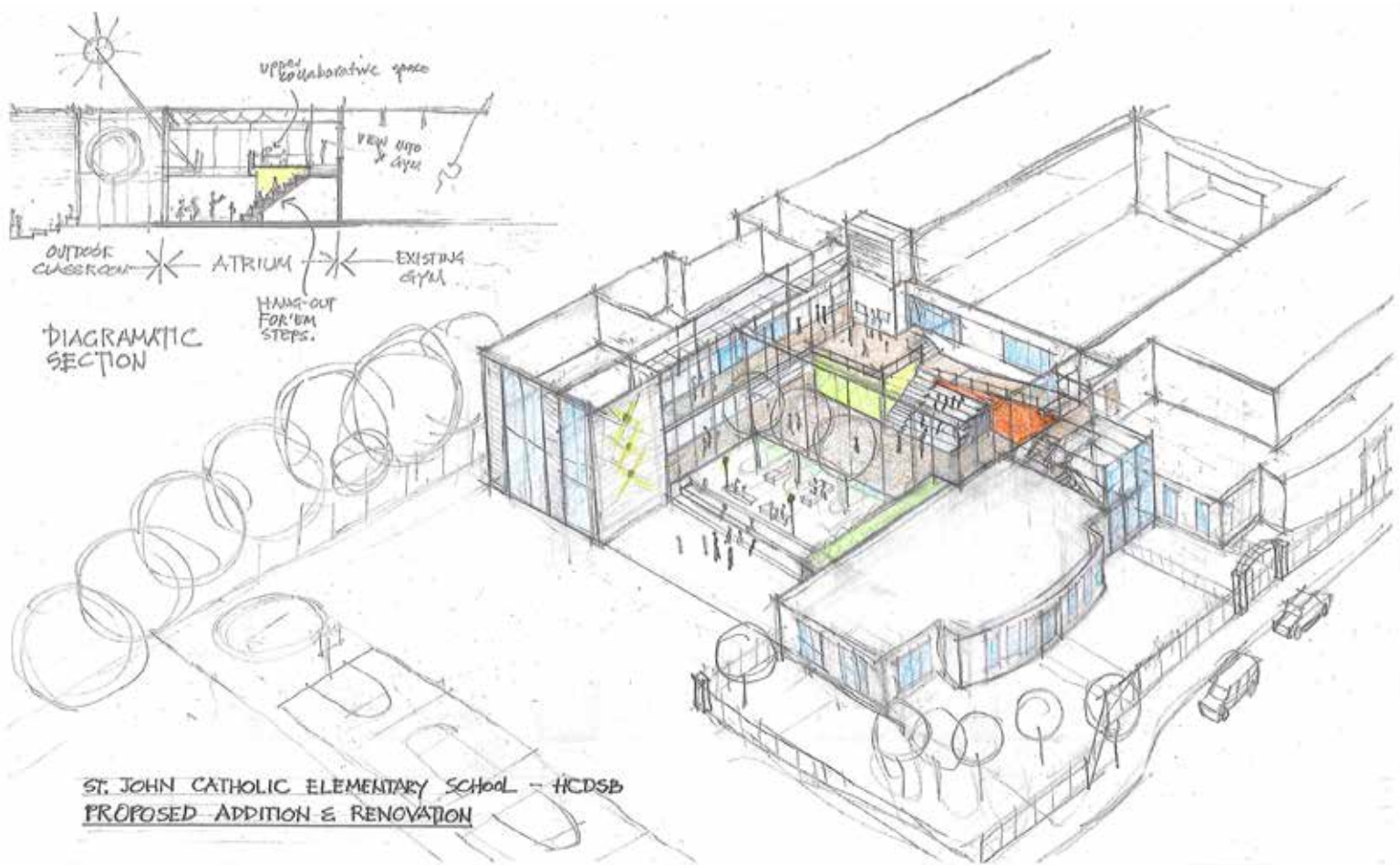
# **APPENDIX I**



## St. John (Burlington) Catholic Elementary School Site Proposed Site for Burlington Southwest QEW School

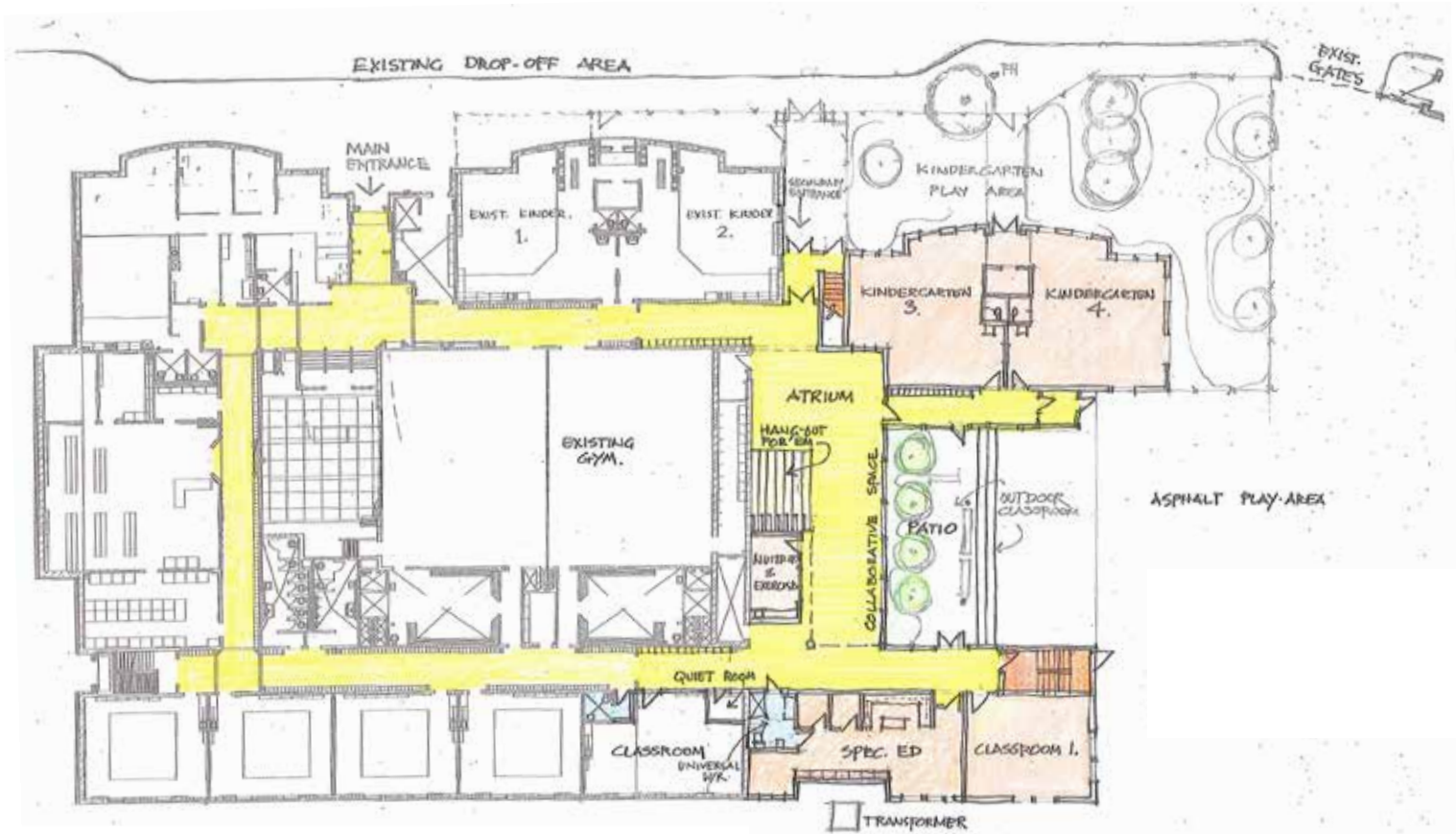


# Proposed Concept of Burlington Southwest QEW School

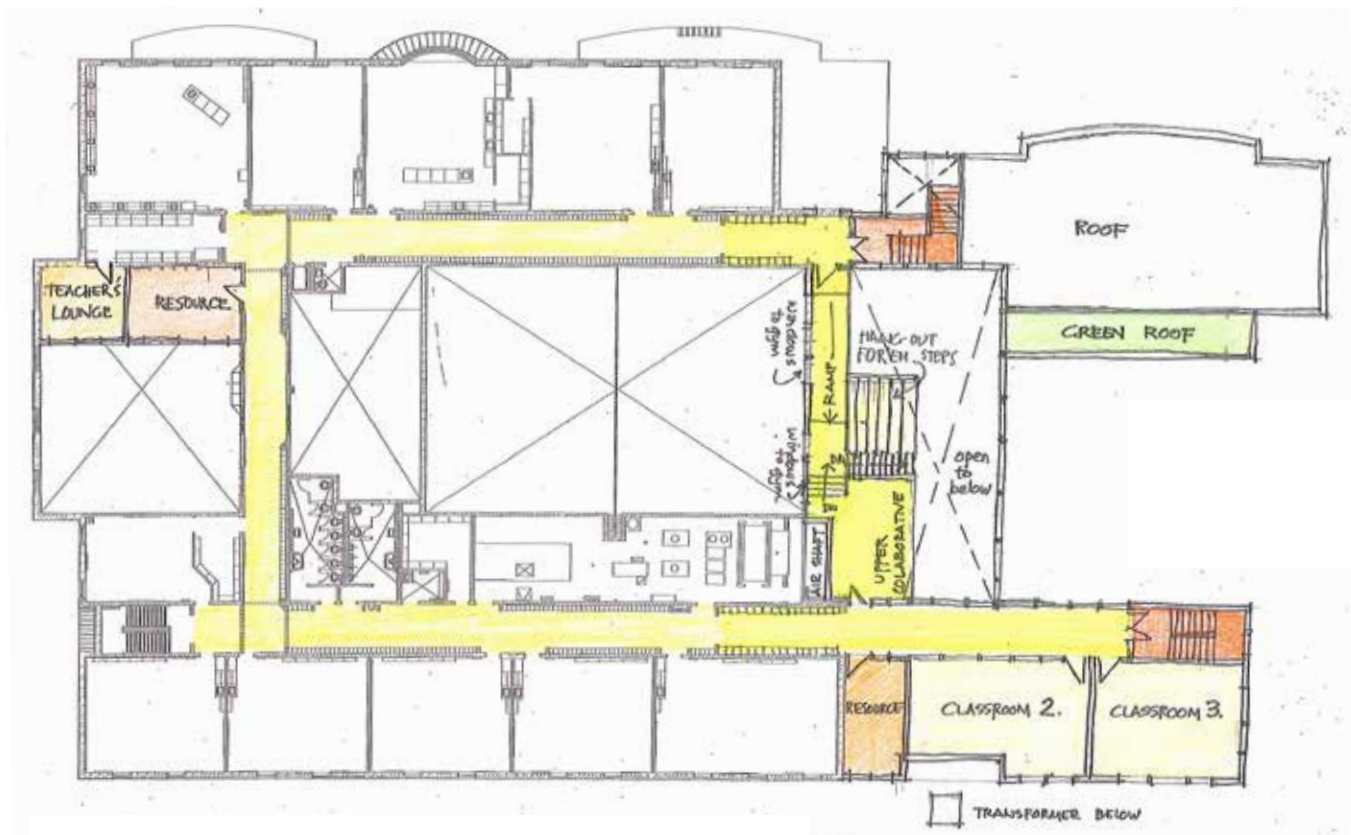




# Proposed Concept of Ground Floor Plan of Burlington Southwest QEW School



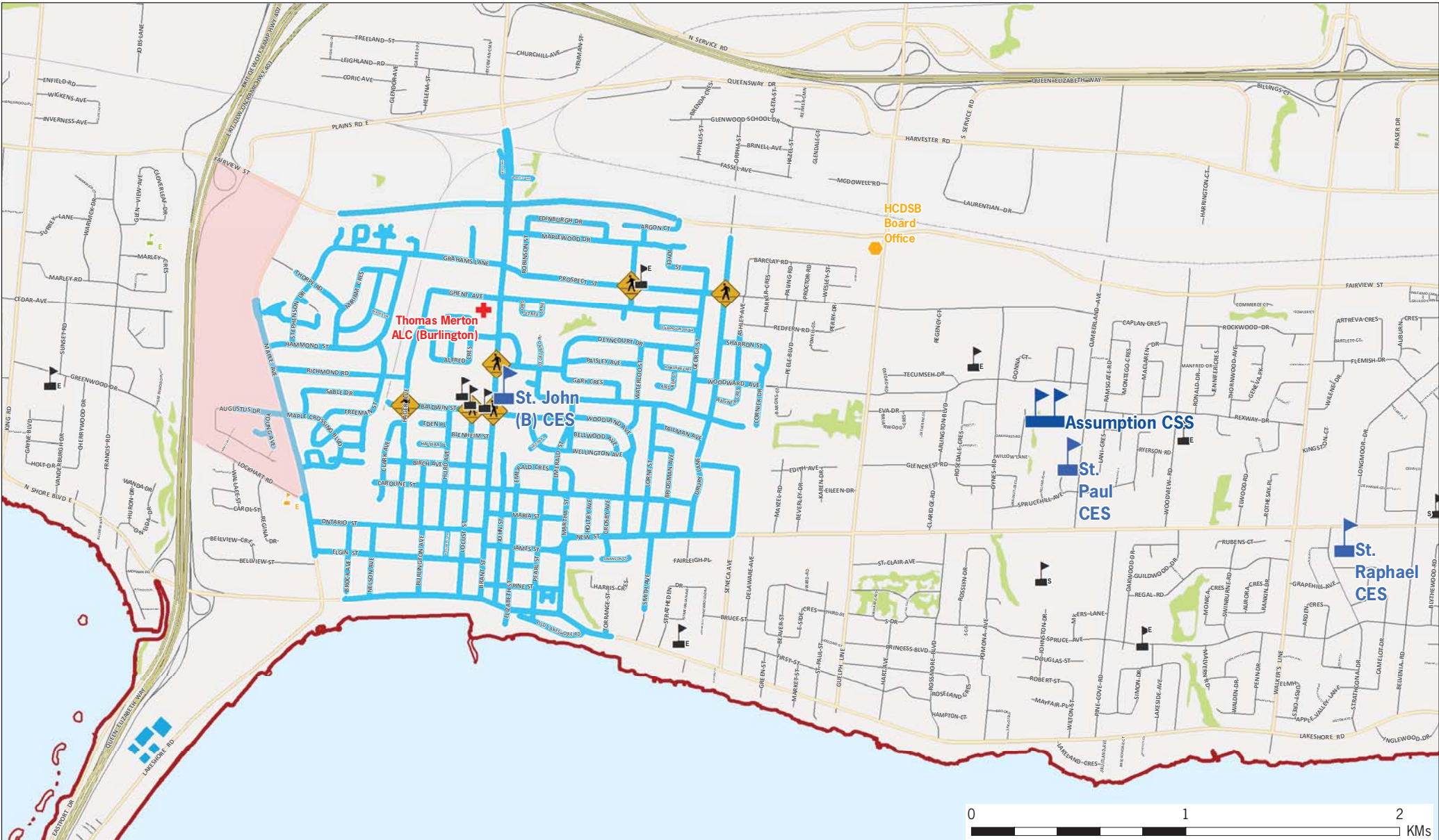
# Proposed Concept of Second Floor Plan of Burlington Southwest QEW School





**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southwest QEW School Project**

# **APPENDIX J**



# Proposed St. John CES 1.6km Walking Web Burlington Southwest QEW Accommodation Review Area

The current street network was provided by the Regional Municipality of Halton and the Region assumes no responsibility or liability for its use or accuracy. Proposed roads are subject to change. It is the intention of the HCDSB to provide up-to-date and accurate information, and reasonable efforts have been made by the HCDSB to verify the information, however a degree of error or change is inherent. This information is distributed "as is" without warranty. HCDSB assumes no legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information. If you require additional information please contact the Planning Services Department at 905-632-6300 or visit [www.haltonbsb.ca](http://www.haltonbsb.ca) for additional school boundary information.

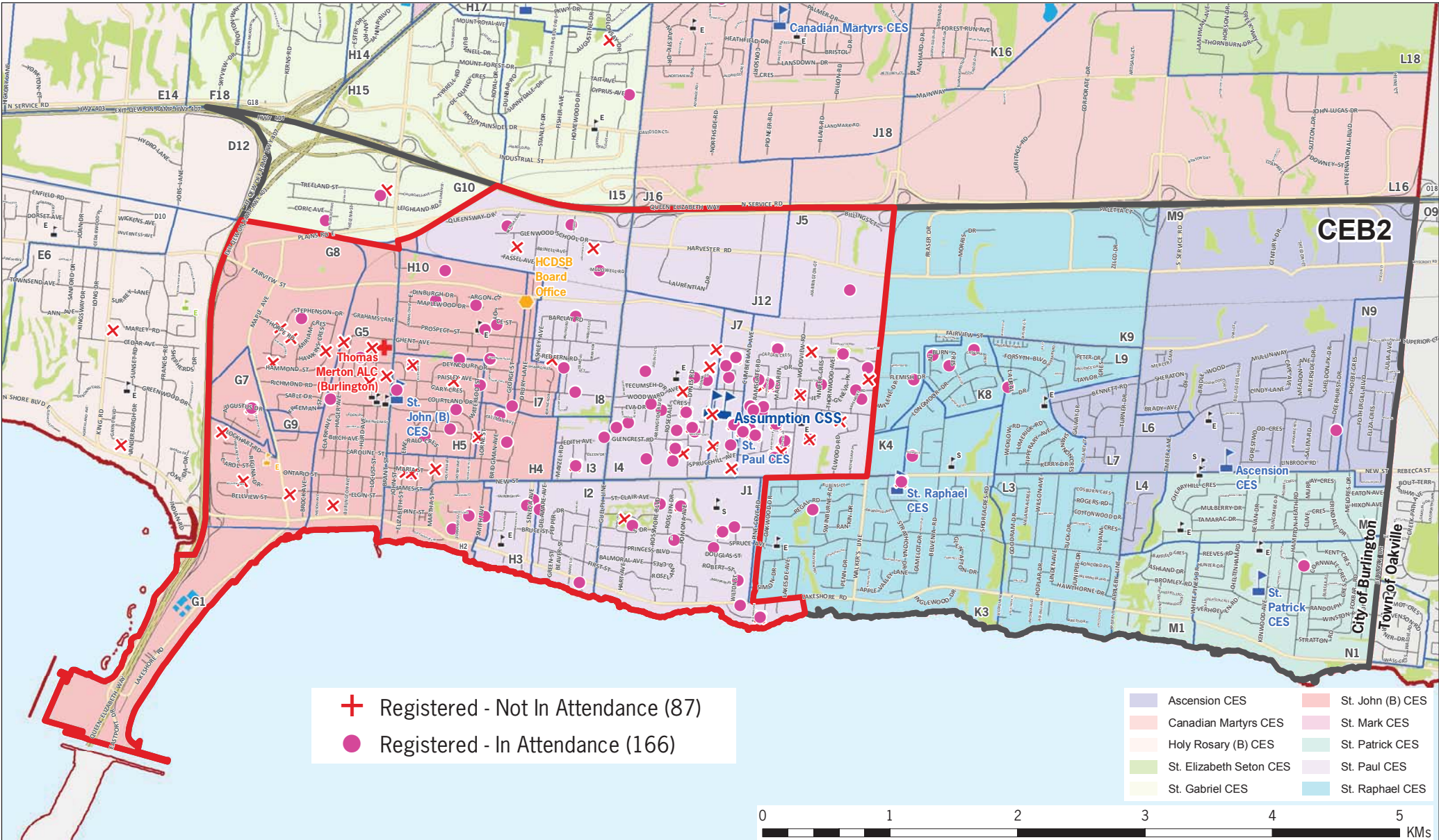
- HCDSB Schools
- HDSB Schools
- Crossing Guard Location
- CS Viamonde Schools
- CSDCCS Schools
- St. John Walking Web
- HCDSB Adult Learning Centre
- HCDSB Administration
- Exception Areas



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Burlington Southwest QEW School Project**

# **APPENDIX K**





**STAFF REPORT**

**ITEM 4.4**

**OAKVILLE SOUTH CENTRAL MODIFIED PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW  
INTERIM STAFF REPORT**

**PURPOSE:**

To provide the Board of Trustees with a copy of the **Interim Staff Report** for the Oakville South Central Modified Pupil Accommodation Review Report, summarizing the status of the process and presenting the collated community feedback.

**BACKGROUND:**

1. Information Report 10.4, "2016 Annual Accommodation Review", from the January 19, 2016 Regular Board Meeting.
2. Staff Report 9.2, "2015 School Consolidation Capital Project Proposals", from the January 5, 2016 Regular Board Meeting.
3. Action Report 8.6, "Oakville South Central Modified Pupil Accommodation Review", from the January 19, 2016 Regular Board Meeting

**REPORT PREPARED BY:**

F. THIBEAULT, ADMINISTRATOR OF PLANNING SERVICES  
R. MERRICK, ADMINISTRATOR, SCHOOL OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE  
S. GALLIHER, PLANNING OFFICER, PLANNING SERVICES

**SUBMITTED BY:**

G. CORBACIO, SUPERINTENDENT OF FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES  
P. MCMAHON, SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS SERVICES AND TREASURER OF THE BOARD  
T. PINELLI, SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL SERVICES

**REPORT APPROVED BY:**

P. DAWSON, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND SECRETARY OF THE BOARD





## **Modified Pupil Accommodation Review Interim Staff Report**

### **Oakville South Central School Project**

**March 22, 2016**

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## 1.0 Executive Summary

At the January 19, 2016, Regular Meeting of the Board, Trustees approved a recommendation to undertake a Modified Pupil Accommodation Review (MPAR) for the Oakville South Central review area, an area bounded by the QEW to the north, Sixteen Mile Creek to the East, Lake Ontario to the South, and Burloak Drive to the West. This review area is comprised of the following schools: St. Joseph School, St. James School, and St. Dominic School.

Staff presented an Initial Staff Report that recommended one (1) option to address the declining enrolment and underutilized accommodation issues present in the review area. In addition, the report provided context about the considerations made in developing the recommended option as well as the rationale for undertaking a Modified Pupil Accommodation Review (MPAR) for the Oakville South Central neighbourhood area.

The recommended option consisted of the consolidation of two (2) of three (3) affected schools, namely St. Joseph School and St. James School into one (1) **rebuilt 504 pupil place school on the existing St. Joseph School** site for the 2017-18 school year. In addition, staff is also proposing a **4,620 square meter partial rebuild of the existing St. Dominic School**, and the conversion of the southern-most general purpose room (gymnasium) into an **88 place five (5) room** child-care centre, supported by the Region of Halton.

The Initial Staff Report included the following resources and can be found online:

- A) Documentation of required work completed prior to the accommodation review;
- B) Summary of background data used in option developed by staff;
- C) Summary of accommodation issues for the schools under review; and,
- D) Preferred accommodation option.

Following the January 19, 2016 Board approval to undertake an MPAR, staff proceeded to notify the community about the accommodation review process as well as solicit feedback on the proposed accommodation plan. All information was made available through the Board's website ([www.hcdsb.org](http://www.hcdsb.org)).

Staff took the opportunity to present the recommended scenario to the three (3) local parent/school councils and school staff at all three (3) schools, the affected parish representatives, the City of Oakville, the Diocese of Hamilton, and to the wider community through the Community Consultation Meeting (CCM), held on March 7, 2016, at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School. A summary of the full communication strategy is presented as Appendix A.

An online forum was also developed to enable the community to have a shared dialogue about the proposal. The forum was made available beginning on January 27, 2016. In addition to the forum, a three (3) question on-line survey was made available from February 17 to March 11, 2016. All communication shared in the online forum and survey are attached as Appendix B and Appendix C, respectively.

The Community Consultation Meetings also provided an opportunity for parents and stakeholders to submit comments and questions for Board staff to address. A summary package of the information gathered at the CCM and the “parking lot questions” and answers are attached as Appendix D and Appendix E, respectively. Questions that staff were not able to answer at the CCM were added to the parking lot. Answers to the parking lot questions were subsequently uploaded to the Board website one (1) week following the CCM.

A summary of the communication process is as follows:

1. Board website updated on January 20, 2016 – Pupil Accommodation Review button placed prominently on the landing page of the website. Updates ongoing.
2. Email letters and FAQ sheet distributed to each parent and staff member in the impacted school communities on January 20, 2016. Follow up emails sent to parents on January 27<sup>th</sup>, February 17<sup>th</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and March 15<sup>th</sup>.
3. Copy of letter to staff and an FAQ sheet shared with Presidents of Unionized Employee Groups on January 20, 2016.
4. Letter sent via email to St. Dominic Parish Pastor and St. James Parish Pastor on January 26, 2016.
5. Hardcopy letters hand-delivered on January 26, 2016 to neighbours and residents adjacent to and abutting the school communities.
6. Online discussion forum; available from January 27, 2016  
([www.muut.com/oakville-southcentral-mpar](http://www.muut.com/oakville-southcentral-mpar))
7. Media Release – Distributed January 28, 2016
8. Letters sent to Regional Chair, Mayor of Oakville and Local Councillors, and Member of Provincial Parliament for Oakville on January 29, 2016.
9. Presentations to School Staff  
(January 27, 2016 at St. James School; February 1, 2016 at St. Joseph; and February 4, 2016 at St. Dominic)
10. Presentations to Catholic School Councils  
(February 4, 2016 at St. James School; February 18, 2016 at St. Joseph CES; and February 23, 2016 at St. Dominic School)
11. An online survey, made available February 17 to March 11, 2016.
12. School newsletter/website message was provided to schools.
13. Community Consultation Meeting on March 7, 2016, at St. Thomas Aquinas CSS

- a. Parking Lot Questions – posted online Tuesday March 8, 2016
- b. Transcribed Table Discussions

Staff will present to Trustees at the March 22, 2016 Special Meeting of the Board the feedback and input that has been gathered to date. On April 5, 2016, The Board of Trustees will receive delegations from the community regarding the Oakville South Central Schools Consolidation Proposal. The information received from the delegations and any other pertinent information will be included in the Final Report to the Board. The Final Report will be presented to Trustees as an Action Item at the April 19, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Board, when a final decision and approval by the Board is anticipated.

## 2.0 Initial Staff Report Summary (January 19, 2016)

### 2.1 Annual School Board Planning

Planning staff develop a number of reports on an annual basis in support of school accommodation planning. The outcomes of these reports indicate that declining enrolment is a reality in portions of the Oakville South Central review area. This finding aligns with Staff's initial recommended option to consolidate two (2) schools to address declining enrolment trends.

#### 2.1.1 15-Year Projection Update

A December 15, 2015, report to Board contained a 15 year forecast of enrolment projections for the Region of Halton. In the context of the **CEO1: Oakville – South of QEW** Review Area, staff projected that enrolment would continue to decline over the next fifteen (15) year period, leaving the facilities within the area consistently underutilized, and reducing the need for five (5) standalone school facilities.

#### 2.1.2 LTCP and Annual Facilities Accommodation Report

The Long Term Capital Plan (LTCP) is released on a five year cycle for the entire Region of Halton, and was most recently updated in June 2013. This document compiles the Board's long term enrolment projections and contemplates future projects for creating new pupil places, renewing school facilities, and removing excess pupil places from the Board's inventory through pupil accommodation reviews.

The LTCP is a living document that is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure changing trends are reflected in the plan. The LTCP can be accessed on the Board's website:

<http://www.hcdsb.org/Board/LTCP/Pages/default.aspx>

The 2013 Long Term Capital Plan acknowledged the declining enrolment within the **CE01 Oakville South Central Review Area**, and **suggested that a pupil accommodation review be undertaken in the area to reduce excess capacity by 450 pupil places** and reduce overall renewal needs by removing aging schools from the Board's building inventory.

In addition, as part of the Board's annual review for the 2015-16 school year, staff completed its Annual Facility Accommodation Report, as per the requirements of Operating Policy I-37: Community Planning & Facilities Partnerships, and presented the Report to community stakeholders on January 18, 2016.

### 2.1.3 Consultation with Local & Regional Municipalities

On an ongoing basis, as a part of the yearly review of accommodation needs and the daily operations of the Planning Services Department, staff consults with local municipalities and receives planning information on a number of development related matters.

This information is used in the development of short and long-term enrolment forecasts, and the determination of future Board accommodation needs in both established and new neighbourhoods. Staff regularly liaise with municipal staff to discuss future needs within the target municipalities, and align future capital investments wherever feasible (i.e. park facilities, childcare, city services).

As part of the MPAR process, staff met with the Town of Oakville on March 9, 2016 to discuss the proposed accommodation plans for the Oakville South Central accommodation review area. Town staff were supportive of the proposal's intent, and will be liaising with other community stakeholders to identify potential future partners to occupy surplus space in St. James School, if the approval moves forward.

## 2.2 Accommodation Review Area Overview

The **Oakville South Central** Accommodation Review Area is located within the **CE01 South of the QEW review area** as identified in the Board's 2013 Long-Term Capital Plan, both of which are displayed geographically in Appendix G. The three (3) elementary schools located within the Accommodation Review Area include St. Joseph School, St. James School, and St. Dominic School. The boundary of the accommodation review area is comprised of the three aforementioned school boundaries combined, shown in Appendix H.

A cursory overview of each affected school within the review area is summarized below in Table 1, and is further supplemented by the information found within the School Information Profiles, found in Appendix C of the Initial Staff Report, which was presented to Board on January 19, 2016.



**Table 1 Historic & Projected Enrolment Oakville South Central Review Area**

| School Name         | OTG         | 2011        | 2015        | 2020        | 2025        | Original Construction | FCI | Site Size |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----|-----------|
| St. Dominic CES     | 527         | 558         | 625         | 590         | 550         | 1961                  | 51% | 7.10 ac.  |
|                     |             | 106%        | 119%        | 112%        | 104%        |                       |     |           |
| St. James CES       | 478         | 287         | 214         | 185         | 215         | 1956                  | 26% | 3.06 ac.  |
|                     |             | 60%         | 45%         | 39%         | 45%         |                       |     |           |
| St. Joseph (O) CES  | 303         | 364         | 380         | 311         | 260         | 1961                  | 50% | 5.46 ac.  |
|                     |             | 120%        | 125%        | 103%        | 86%         |                       |     |           |
| <b>Head Count</b>   | <b>1308</b> | <b>1209</b> | <b>1219</b> | <b>1086</b> | <b>1025</b> |                       |     |           |
| Utilization (%)     |             | 92%         | 93%         | 83%         | 78%         |                       |     |           |
| Surplus Space (+,-) |             | 99          | 89          | 222         | 283         |                       |     |           |

This geographic area is considered by staff to be a maturing neighbourhood. Although over the past five (5) years (2011-2015), enrolment has increased by approximately 1% overall (due to St. Dominic's Growth) it is anticipated that enrolment within the affected schools will decline an 11% by 2020 (5 year), and by 16% by 2025 (10 year) as Junior Kindergarten entrance enrolment declines. It is the anticipated rate of decline will begin to stabilize within a 10 year period.

The overall utilization of schools within the **Oakville South Central** is anticipated to continue decreasing over the next ten (10) years as the neighbourhood continues to mature. The overall utilization rate of the schools is approximately 93%, and will begin to decline to a utilization of 78% over a 10 year period. In reviewing long-term enrolment trends as well as future development potential within the accommodation review area, it does not appear that the underutilized spaces will be filled in the St. James School area, leaving this facility operating well below the 90% optimal utilization that the Board seeks to achieve as a benchmark. As for St. Joseph School, the utilization is within the optimal range, however this is mainly due to the small size of the school, being 303 pupil places – this is limiting its ability to offer two Extended French Immersion classrooms per grade.

A boundary review for all schools within the **Oakville South Central** area with the aim to re-apportion students is not a viable opportunity in this scenario to enhance utilization, as ultimately, there are more underutilized spaces overall than student enrolment in the area utilization – in 2015 there are 1,219 students to 1,308 classroom spaces (93% utilization). This is especially true when only observing St. James and St. Joseph School, which collective have in the 2015 school year 594 students to 781 classroom space (75% utilization). To achieve an optimal utilization, empty classroom spaces would need to be removed from the Board's inventory.

As an additional verification, staff retained Watson and Associates to conduct a peer review of the enrolment projections generated by staff, completed a demographic analysis of the affected areas served by the three (3) schools, and the merit of the proposal presented in the Initial Staff Report. The peer review confirmed staff's long term projections, and concluded that the proposed school consolidation project was viable and met the conditions set out by the Ministry of Education.

## 2.2.1 Enrolment Projections

Table 2 below illustrates the enrolment projections for the schools within the **Oakville South Central** accommodation review area. As mentioned previously, the enrolment projections were reviewed and supported by third party consultants (Watson and Associates).

**Table 2: Projected Enrolment – Oakville South Central Accommodation Review Area**

| School Name         | OTG  | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| St. Dominic CES     | 527  | 625  | 614  | 601  | 605  | 599  | 590  | 582  | 581  | 565  | 561  | 550  |
|                     |      | 119% | 117% | 114% | 115% | 114% | 112% | 110% | 110% | 107% | 106% | 104% |
| St. James CES       | 478  | 214  | 205  | 203  | 191  | 181  | 185  | 192  | 199  | 204  | 211  | 215  |
|                     |      | 45%  | 43%  | 42%  | 40%  | 38%  | 39%  | 40%  | 42%  | 43%  | 44%  | 45%  |
| St. Joseph (O) CES  | 303  | 380  | 378  | 352  | 330  | 328  | 311  | 301  | 294  | 279  | 262  | 260  |
|                     |      | 125% | 125% | 116% | 109% | 108% | 103% | 99%  | 97%  | 92%  | 86%  | 86%  |
| Head Count          | 1308 | 1219 | 1197 | 1156 | 1126 | 1108 | 1086 | 1075 | 1074 | 1048 | 1034 | 1025 |
| Utilization (%)     |      | 93%  | 92%  | 88%  | 86%  | 85%  | 83%  | 82%  | 82%  | 80%  | 79%  | 78%  |
| Surplus Space (+,-) |      | 89   | 111  | 152  | 182  | 200  | 222  | 233  | 234  | 260  | 274  | 283  |

## 2.2.2 Academic Programs

As part of the recommendation, staff seeks to retain all existing programs at St. Dominic School, and re-direct all other programs offered at St. James School at the time of consolidation to the newly constructed Oakville South Central School. All three schools are part of the St. Thomas of Aquinas Catholic Secondary School family of Schools. Accordingly, the newly constructed Oakville South Central School will offer the regular track JK-8 program, and a self-contained special education program, and the Extended French Program offered from Grade 5 to Grade 8. All programming will be in conformity with the Board's long-term strategy in offering a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning experience.

As previously mention, given the size of St. Joseph's school and the student enrolment, only one (1) Extended French Immersion classroom for Grade 5 could be offered notwithstanding

the demand for two (2) classroom maximum. With a larger facility and larger enrolment complement, the introduction of two (2) Extended French Immersion classrooms would be possible as space needs and the risk of having a low regular track enrolment for the Regular Track program would be avoided.

### 2.2.3 Facility Condition Index (FCI)

Using the 5-year renewal needs, an FCI can be calculated. Table 3 below summarizes the 5-year FCI for all three affected schools within the **Oakville South Central** accommodation review area.

**Table 3: Facility Condition Index Summary**

| SCHOOL NAME               | ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION   | FBC         | 5 YEAR RENEWAL NEEDS | REPLACEMENT VALUE   | FACILITY CONDITION INDEX |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>St. Dominic CES</b>    | 1961 (w/ 1995 addition) | 527         | \$5,215,684          | \$10,295,060        | 51 %                     |
| <b>St. James CES</b>      | 1956                    | 478         | \$2,511,362          | \$9,733,630         | 26 %                     |
| <b>St. Joseph (O) CES</b> | 1961                    | 303         | \$3,459,506          | \$6,882,680         | 50 %                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>1959 (avg.)</b>      | <b>1308</b> | <b>\$11,186,552</b>  | <b>\$26,911,370</b> | <b>42% (avg.)</b>        |

The average age of the three (3) facilities within the accommodation review area is approximately 57 years, with construction dates ranging from 1956 to 1961. Facilities within this age range typically have many critical building component that are reaching the end of their useful lifecycle.

As shown in Table 3 below, the average Facility Condition Index of the three facilities is approximately 42%, with a total 5-year renewal need of approximately \$11.2M dollars and a collective replacement value of approximately \$26.9M. It is important to note that the facility renewal costs account primarily for the replacement of critical building components and does not account for improvement items, such as accessibility, fire safety improvements, LED lighting, natural Kindergarten playgrounds and other modernization improvements that would have the effect of improving programming or energy efficiency.

Moreover, the on-the-ground capacity (OTG) of St. Joseph School is below the optimal school facility size of 500-671 pupil places. St. James (478) and St. Dominic School (527) sizes are within range or acceptable in size.

## 2.2.4 School Site Description

The site conditions at the three facilities within the accommodation review area can be summarized as shown in Table 4.

**Table 4: Option Development Criteria Summary – Oakville South Central**

| SCHOOL                    | SITE SIZE (ACRES) | SITE DESCRIPTION                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>St. Dominic CES</b>    | 7.10              | Preferred site size. Adjacent to St. Dominic Church. Small frontage.                                                                                                                      |
| <b>St. James CES</b>      | 3.06              | Undersized site. No parking or bus loading area on school property. Parking and bus loading area is provided on the site of the adjacent St. James Church through a shared use agreement. |
| <b>St. Joseph (O) CES</b> | 5.46              | Preferred site size with a slightly narrow frontage.                                                                                                                                      |

Table 5 below details how each school, in its current state, meets the preferred development criteria to be considered when reviewing pupil accommodation options.

**Table 5: Option Development Criteria Summary – Oakville South Central**

| CRITERIA                                    | ST. DOMINIC CES                                                                 | ST. JAMES CES                                                                   | ST. JOSEPH (O) CES                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Facility Utilization between 90-125%</b> | Yes                                                                             | No                                                                              | Yes                                                                             |
| <b>500-671 FBC/OTG</b>                      | Yes (527)                                                                       | No (478)                                                                        | No (303)                                                                        |
| <b>Portable Classroom Needs</b>             | Yes                                                                             | No                                                                              | Yes                                                                             |
| <b>Fully Accessible</b>                     | No                                                                              | No                                                                              | No                                                                              |
| <b>Transportation Time</b>                  | Well below maximum travel times, comparable to the Board average of 14 minutes. | Well below maximum travel times, comparable to the Board average of 14 minutes. | Well below maximum travel times, comparable to the Board average of 14 minutes. |
| <b>Average Distance to School</b>           | 2.13 kilometers                                                                 | 1.98 kilometers                                                                 | 2.33 kilometers                                                                 |
| <b>Site Size (Approx. 5+ acres)</b>         | Preferred size (7.10 acres)                                                     | Under preferred size (3.6 acres)                                                | Preferred size (5.46 acres)                                                     |
| <b>Adjacent Uses</b>                        | Church; Residential                                                             | Church; Residential                                                             | Residential, and in close proximity to arena and Town library                   |
| <b>Site Limitation</b>                      | Limited Frontage                                                                | Parking and playfield are owned by adjacent parish                              | N/A                                                                             |

## 2.2.5 Transportation Summary Data

Current transportation data was provided by the Halton Student Transportation Service (HSTS). Student data was derived from the 2015-16 school year, and aggregated into the data displayed in Table 6.

As of the December 31, 2015, transportation data, there are a total of 687 transported students within the **Oakville South Central** neighbourhood. A preliminary analysis of the proposed attendance boundary for the proposed Oakville South Central School estimates that a total of 400 students would be eligible for transportation, which is 67% of the student school population.

HSTS has informed staff that for the 2015-16 school year, the average bus times for students enrolled in the Regular Track program of the Board is approximately 14 minutes.

**Table 6: Transportation Summary Data for Status Quo**

| SCHOOL NAME               | TOTAL STUDENTS | ELIGIBLE RIDERS <sup>1</sup> | COURTESY RIDERS | TOTAL      | PERCENTAGE OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS | AVERAGE DISTANCE |
|---------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>St. Dominic CES</b>    | 625            | 394                          | 9               | 403        | 64%                             | 2.13 km          |
| <b>St. James CES</b>      | 214            | 90                           | 5               | 95         | 44%                             | 1.98 km          |
| <b>St. Joseph (O) CES</b> | 380            | 203                          | 25              | 228        | 60%                             | 2.33 km          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>1,219</b>   | <b>687</b>                   | <b>39</b>       | <b>726</b> | <b>56%</b>                      | <b>2.14 km</b>   |

**NOTE:** As per the HSTS Operating Procedure HS-1-003 – Eligibility Factors, elementary students that reside more than 1.6 kilometers from their home school are eligible for transportation. Eligibility for transportation may also be granted in instances where there are potential safety hazards along the student route. See Appendix K Walking Map.

## 2.2.6 Meeting Program Needs and Accessibility Standards

21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning environments require flexible spaces that can be used for multiple purposes, including group collaboration, breakout meetings and one-to-one teaching. All facilities within the accommodation review area were evaluated against the Board's standard for the construction of new school facilities for several programming criteria. The results of this evaluation are summarized in Table 7.

**Table 7: Facility Programming Needs**

| CRITERIA                         | BENCHMARK                             | ST. DOMINIC CES     | ST. JAMES CES | ST. JOSEPH (O) CES |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| <b>Gymnasium</b>                 | Double gym                            | Two (2) Single gyms | Single gym    | Single gym         |
| <b>Kindergarten Space</b>        | 1,100 m <sup>2</sup> with washroom    | Adequate            | Adequate      | Adequate           |
| <b>Resource Rooms/Space</b>      | ~1 Resource room per 100 pupil places | Inadequate          | Inadequate    | Inadequate         |
| <b>Program Teacher Workspace</b> | Workstation + resource storage        | Inadequate          | Inadequate    | Inadequate         |

### 2.3 Initial Staff Report Recommendation

Staff is recommending to consolidate St. Joseph School and St. James School into a **newly constructed 504 pupil place facility located on the existing St. Joseph School site for the 2017-18 school year** as well as a **4,620 square meter rebuild of the existing St. Dominic School**. In addition, the Board is also proposing to construct an 88 place five (5) room child-care centre as a wing to the new St. Dominic School rebuild.

To fund the project, the Board is requesting **\$21,518,970** for the Oakville South Central School and St. Dominic Rebuild School projects which consist of **\$10,790,825 SCC Funding for the new Oakville South Central School (St. Joseph rebuild)** and **\$8,534,606 SCC Funding for the St. Dominic School partial rebuild** and **\$2,520,850 Child Care Funding**.

Staff recommends that the following actions be taken within the **Oakville South QEW Neighbourhood** accommodation review area:

- 1) Demolish the existing St. Joseph School, and construct a 504 pupil place elementary facility on the existing site for the 2017-2018 school year;
- 2) Demolish 4,412 square meter wing of the existing pre-1995 St. Dominic School wing, and construct a 377 pupil place addition, and convert the existing General Purpose Room into an 88 place five (5) room child-care centre wing; and,
- 3) Close St. James, and re-locate the existing Oakville Thomas Merton Adult Learning Centre (currently leased commercial space) into the facility – \$774,000 per year lease 2015.

As demonstrated in Table 8 below, the proposed accommodation plan would have the effect of removing at total **277 surplus pupil places**, providing for an average 10 year utilization

of approximately 103% (98% Oakville South Central / 109% St. Dominic). This plan will also allow for a number of operational and capital/renewal savings over a 15 year period – discussed in Section 2.3.2 and Section 2.3.3 – as well as ensure that programming, accessibility standards, and energy efficiency will be significantly enhanced with the construction of a new state of the art facility.

**Table 8: Projection – Oakville South Central school projects**

| School Name                       | OTG         | Openin<br>g | 5 year projection |             |             |             |             | 10 year projection |             |             |             |            |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
|                                   |             | 2017        | 2018              | 2019        | 2020        | 2021        | 2022        | 2023               | 2024        | 2025        | 2026        | 2027       |
| Oakville South Central School     | 504         | 555         | 520               | 509         | 495         | 493         | 491         | 481                | 472         | 474         | 464         | 457        |
|                                   |             | 110%        | 103%              | 101%        | 98%         | 98%         | 97%         | 96%                | 94%         | 94%         | 92%         | 91%        |
| St. Dominic CES (Partial Rebuild) | 527         | 602         | 604               | 598         | 589         | 583         | 580         | 565                | 561         | 549         | 545         | 542        |
|                                   |             | 114%        | 115%              | 114%        | 112%        | 111%        | 110%        | 107%               | 106%        | 104%        | 103%        | 103%       |
| <b>Head Count</b>                 | <b>1031</b> | <b>1157</b> | <b>1124</b>       | <b>1108</b> | <b>1084</b> | <b>1076</b> | <b>1071</b> | <b>1046</b>        | <b>1032</b> | <b>1023</b> | <b>1009</b> | <b>999</b> |
| Utilization (%)                   |             | 112%        | 109%              | 107%        | 105%        | 104%        | 104%        | 101%               | 100%        | 99%         | 98%         | 97%        |
| Surplus Space (+,-)               |             | -126        | -93               | -77         | -53         | -45         | -40         | -15                | -1          | 8           | 22          | 32         |

As part of the recommendation, staff also seeks to re-direct all existing programs offered at the two (2) consolidated schools to the new Oakville South Central School. The newly constructed school will offer the regular JK-8 program and the Extended French Immersion (Grade 5-8).

### 2.3.1 Walking and Transportation Considerations

A preliminary analysis of the proposed attendance boundary for the proposed Oakville South Central School estimates that a total of 380 students would be eligible for transportation, which is 67% of the student school population. The average distance for students to the new school is approximately 2.75 kilometers (max distance of 4.48 kilometers), which is an increase of 0.60 km to the current average distance. Table 9 summarizes the current situation and the proposed solution:

**Table 9: Transportation Comparison Summary**

| SCHOOL NAME                 | TOTAL STUDENTS (OCTOBER 2015) | ELIGIBLE RIDERS (DECEMBER 2015) | PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS | AVERAGE DISTANCE | TOTAL BUSSING COST (40K PER BUS) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Status Quo (Current)</b> | 594                           | 293                             | 52%                    | 2.15 km          | \$179,500                        |
| <b>Proposed Solution</b>    | 594                           | 400                             | 67%                    | 2.75 km          | \$216,000                        |
| <b>Difference</b>           |                               | <b>+107</b>                     | <b>+9%</b>             | <b>+0.60 km</b>  | <b>+\$36,500</b>                 |

The Halton Student Transportation Service (HSTS), confirms that although a higher number of students will be transported, with the use of a higher distribution of large buses over small buses, the annual busing costs are anticipated to increase by approximately \$36,500. This cost will drop over time as enrolment declines. Please refer to Appendix K for an estimated walking distance map.

The transportation needs cost estimate analysis conducted by HSTS reviewed the current number of vehicle routes operating in the affected area and compared it to the consolidation proposal by completing proposed routes based on the new boundary to calculate the number of future busing route needs. The projected costs assume an increase in route costs (inflation) over two (2) years and route sharing with the co-terminus board (HDSB). Further savings are anticipated depending on the overall program needs in the future of both boards, which at this time have not been considered.

### 2.3.2 Current vs. Proposed Capital Cost Savings

Currently, the 5 year renewal needs for St. Joseph School and St. James School amount to approximately \$6.0M, which is expected to rise to approximately \$8.0M over a 10 year period. At 5 years, this total amounts to 55% of the proposed Oakville South Central School construction cost of \$9.7M, and at 10 years, 74% of the construction and renewal costs of a new facility – this information is displayed below in in Table 10 and in Figure 1.

Renewal needs would not account for any required investments to update existing facilities with current accessibility, fire code improvements, LED lighting, natural kindergarten playgrounds and other modernization improvements that this project would have the effect of introducing.



**Table 10: Capital Cost Comparison – Oakville South Central School**

| Existing Schools                                      | Code     | 5 Year               | 10 Year              |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|
| St. James CES                                         | STJA     | \$2,511,362          | \$3,441,766          |
| St. Joseph (O) CES                                    | JOSO     | \$3,459,506          | \$4,571,420          |
| <b>Total Oakville South QEW Review Area Cost (\$)</b> |          | <b>\$5,970,868</b>   | <b>\$8,013,186</b>   |
| <b>New Oakville South Central School</b>              | JOSO Cap | \$10,790,825         | \$10,790,825         |
|                                                       | Renewal  | \$-                  | \$-                  |
| <b>Total Oakville South QEW Cost (\$)</b>             |          | <b>\$ 10,790,825</b> | <b>\$ 10,790,825</b> |

**Figure 1: Capital Cost Comparison – Oakville South Central School**



Currently, the 5 year renewal needs for St. Dominic CES amounts to approximately \$5.2M, which is expected to rise to approximately \$6.1M over a 10 year period. At 5 years, this total amounts to 61% of the proposed Oakville South Central School construction cost of \$8.5M, and at 10 years, 70% of the construction and renewal costs of a new facility – this information is displayed below in Table 11 and in

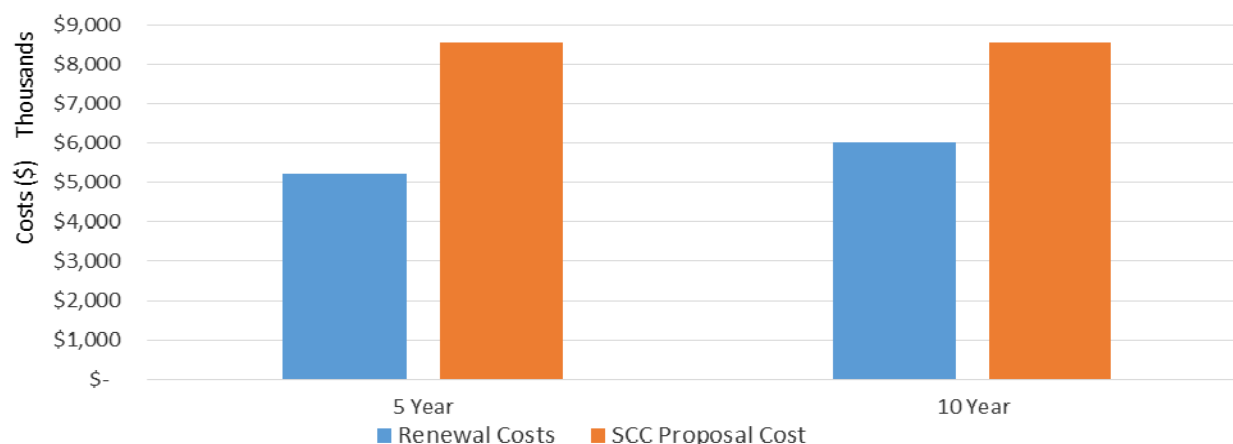
Figure 2.

Again, the renewal needs would not account for any required investments to update existing facilities with current accessibility, LED lighting, natural Kindergarten playgrounds and other modernization improvements that this project would have the effect of introducing.

**Table 11: Capital Cost Comparison – St. Dominic School Partial Rebuild**

| Existing Schools                          | Code     | 5 Year             | 10 Year            |
|-------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|--------------------|
| St. Dominic CES                           | DOMI     | \$5,215,684        | \$6,011,140        |
| <b>Total St. Dominic Cost (\$)</b>        |          | <b>\$5,215,684</b> | <b>\$6,151,877</b> |
| <b>St. Dominic (Rebuilt) CES</b>          | DOMI Cap | \$8,534,606        | \$8,534,606        |
|                                           | Renewal  | \$ -               | \$ -               |
| <b>Total Oakville South QEW Cost (\$)</b> |          | <b>\$8,534,606</b> | <b>\$9,534,606</b> |

**Figure 2: Capital Cost Comparison – St. Dominic School Partial Rebuild**



### 2.3.3 Current vs. Proposed Operating Cost Savings

As part of this cost analysis, operating expenses include: maintenance costs, custodial costs, utilities (electric, gas, water), portable classroom costs, and transportation costs. Staffing cost considerations have not been included at this current time, but are anticipated to result in additional cost savings. Refer to

Table 12 for a cost breakdown, and Figure 3 for an annual cost comparison of the Oakville South Central School project.

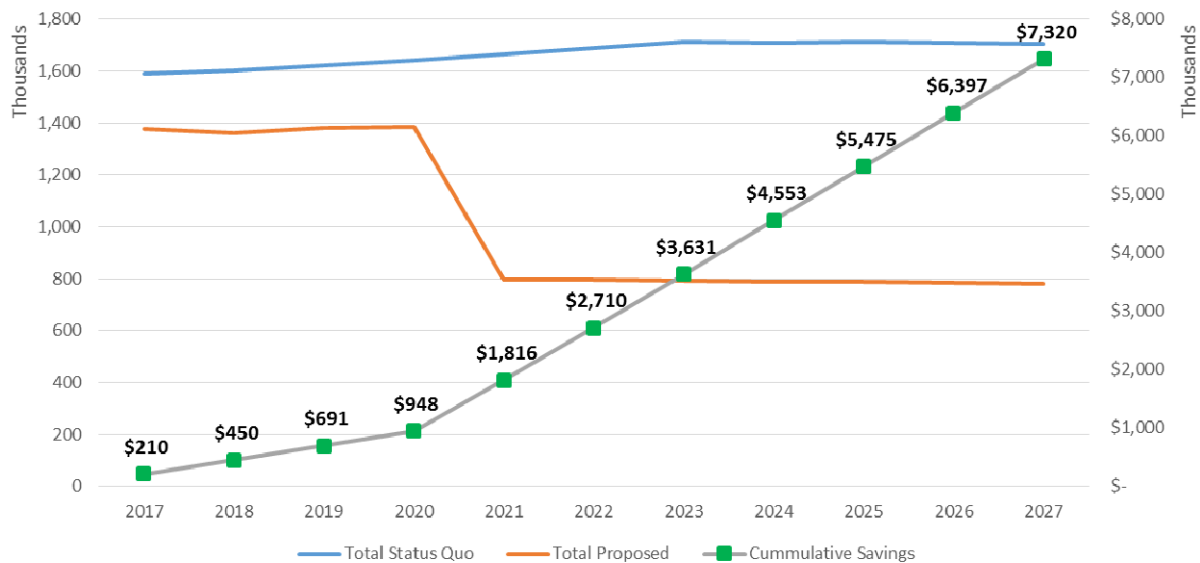
Currently, the annual operating expenditure for St. Joseph CES and St. James CES and the currently leased Oakville ALC, is estimated at \$1.6M. The proposed solution of a consolidated school, operating expenditure comparable to the most recent build (St. Benedict CES) was used. Initially the rebuild solutions will incur higher portable classroom costs at peak enrolment. Transportation cost also increased slightly as the number of eligible riders increased. The proposed option's operating costs are estimated at \$1.3M, and will drop to

\$782K after the lease on the Oakville ALC comes to term – includes the cost to operate the new Oakville South Central School and the ALC using St. James facility. Over a 10 year period, this is anticipated to reach a cumulative savings of approximately \$7.3M.

**Table 12: Annual Operational Cost Comparison – Oakville South Central School**

|                           |                              | 2017               | 2022               | 2027               |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Status Quo</b>         | Operational Costs            | \$1,409,082        | \$1,530,886        | \$1,557,441        |
|                           | Transportation Costs         | \$179,500          | \$158,663          | \$147,755          |
|                           | Portable Classroom Costs     | \$-                | \$-                | \$-                |
|                           | <b>Total Status Quo</b>      | <b>\$1,588,582</b> | <b>\$1,689,549</b> | <b>\$1,705,196</b> |
| <b>Proposed Option</b>    | Operational Costs            | \$1,120,524        | \$604,526          | \$604,526          |
|                           | Transportation Costs         | \$216,000          | \$190,926          | \$177,800          |
|                           | Portable Classroom Costs     | \$42,000           | \$-                | \$-                |
|                           | <b>Total Proposed Option</b> | <b>\$1,378,524</b> | <b>\$795,452</b>   | <b>\$782,326</b>   |
| <b>Annual Savings</b>     |                              | \$210,058          | \$894,098          | \$922,870          |
| <b>Cumulative Savings</b> |                              | <b>\$210,058</b>   | <b>\$2,709,872</b> | <b>\$7,320,111</b> |

**Figure 3: Annual Operational Cost Comparison (ALC Operations excluded in 2020/21 onward)**



Currently, the annual operating expenditure for St. Dominic CES amounts to approximately \$503K (refer to Table 13 for a cost breakdown). The proposed option's operating costs are estimated at \$498K, and will drop to \$444K over a 10 year period as portable needs

decrease, anticipated to reach a cumulative savings of approximately \$54K. Although operational savings are marginal, the renewal cost avoidance is significant.

**Table 13: Annual Operational Cost Comparison – St. Dominic Rebuild Proposal**

|                           |                              | 2017             | 2022             | 2027             |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Status Quo</b>         | Operational Costs            | \$334,128        | \$334,128        | \$334,128        |
|                           | Transportation Costs         | \$112,500        | \$108,507        | \$101,267        |
|                           | Portable Costs               | \$56,000         | \$42,000         | \$14,000         |
|                           | <b>Total Status Quo</b>      | <b>\$502,628</b> | <b>\$484,635</b> | <b>\$449,395</b> |
| <b>Proposed Option</b>    | Operational Costs            | \$322,021        | \$322,021        | \$322,021        |
|                           | Transportation Costs         | \$120,000        | \$115,741        | \$108,018        |
|                           | Portable Costs               | \$56,000         | \$42,000         | \$14,000         |
|                           | <b>Total Proposed Option</b> | <b>\$498,021</b> | <b>\$479,762</b> | <b>\$444,039</b> |
| <b>Annual Savings</b>     |                              | \$4,607          | \$4,873          | \$5,355          |
| <b>Cumulative Savings</b> |                              | <b>\$4,607</b>   | <b>\$28,312</b>  | <b>\$54,429</b>  |

## 3.0 Consultation Process and Feedback Gathered

Staff acknowledged from the beginning that the process of school consolidations will have a significant impact on school communities. Thus, gathering as much community feedback as possible will help better inform staff of the community's needs, and provide Trustees with a breadth of knowledge of the community's outlook on the proposal. The following subsections summarize the feedback gathered to date.

### 3.1 Notification Methods

Board staff have made every effort to ensure the community was adequately notified of the Board's approval of the Modified Pupil Accommodation Review process being undertaken in the Oakville South Central accommodation review area.

A summary of the communication process is as follows:

1. Board website updated on January 20, 2016 – Pupil Accommodation Review button placed prominently on the landing page of the website. Updates ongoing.
2. Email letters and FAQ sheet distributed to each parent and staff member in the impacted school communities on January 20, 2016. Follow up emails sent to parents on January 27<sup>th</sup>, February 17<sup>th</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and March 15<sup>th</sup>.
3. Copy of letter to staff and an FAQ sheet shared with Presidents of Unionized Employee Groups on January 20, 2016.

4. Letter sent via email to St. Dominic Parish Pastor and St. James Parish Pastor on January 26, 2016.
5. Hardcopy letters hand-delivered on January 26, 2016 to neighbours and residents adjacent to and abutting the school communities.
6. Online discussion forum; available from January 27, 2016
  - a. ([www.muut.com/oakville-southcentral-mpar](http://www.muut.com/oakville-southcentral-mpar))
7. Media Release – Distributed January 28, 2016
8. Letters sent to Regional Chair, Mayor of Oakville and Local Councillors, and Member of Provincial Parliament for Oakville on January 29, 2016.
9. Presentations to School Staff
  - a. (January 27, 2016 at St. James School; February 1, 2016 at St. Joseph; and February 4, 2016 at St. Dominic)
10. Presentations to Catholic School Councils
  - a. (February 4, 2016 at St. James School; February 18, 2016 at St. Joseph CES; and February 23, 2016 at St. Dominic School)
11. An online survey, made available February 17 to March 11, 2016.
12. School newsletter/website message was provided to schools.
13. Community Consultation Meeting on March 7, 2016, at St. Thomas Aquinas CSS
  - a. Parking Lot Questions – posted online Tuesday March 8, 2016
  - b. Transcribed Table Discussions

### 3.2 Feedback Opportunities

A number of opportunities were provided for the community to provide their feedback on Staff's recommended proposal. This information was gathered and collated by staff, and attached as Appendix B to Appendix F. The following subsections summarize each opportunity provided to the community to comment on the proposal.

#### 3.2.1 Catholic School Council / Staff Presentations

Staff met with St. James, St. Joseph, and St. Dominic school staff on January 27, 2016, February 1, 2016, and February 4, 2016, respectively. Staff visited Parent/School Councils at St. James, St. Joseph, and St. Dominic Schools on February 4, February 18 and February 23, 2016, respectively.

A presentation was provided which offered an overview of why a Modified PAR was recommended and how staff arrived at the recommended option to consolidate into a proposed new school on the existing St. Joseph (O) School site. Staff informed attendees about the next steps in the MPAR process.

### 3.2.2 Online Discussion Forum

An online discussion forum has been active for parents and community members since January 27. A link to register for the online forum was provided by email, through the school newsletter, and also posted on the Board's website.

A total of 104 users registered on the forum. Many of the predominant themes from the forum have been echoed at the Community Consultation Meeting. A complete record of what posted on the forum as of March 16, 2016, is available in Appendix B.

### 3.2.3 Online Survey

Between the dates of February 17, 2016, to March 11, 2016, the Strategic Communications Department opened an online survey portal that contained the same three (3) questions that were to be presented at the Community Consultation Meeting on March 7, 2016.

A total of 53 survey responses were received from community members. Please refer to Appendix C for a preliminary analysis of the online survey results completed by the Research and Development Services department.

### 3.2.4 Community Consultation Meeting (CCM)

A Community Consultation Meeting was hosted on March 7, 2016, at St. Thomas Aquinas CSS. Prior to the meeting 179 members of the community pre-registered to

| # of Registered Users | # of Active Users<br>(Posted Comments) | Total # of Comments<br>Posted |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 104                   | 13                                     | 24                            |

attend, 117 attended including 41 that had not pre-registered. This represents approximately 10% of the total population of school aged children attending the three (3) affected schools.

Table 14 below summarizes who attended the meeting, and which boundaries the attendees are geographically located. A map of this information is provided in Appendix L.

The format of the Community Consultation Meeting (CCM) started with staff providing parents and community members with an information session of the review process, the recommended option, and the concerns and feedback received at that point in time. The attendees were seated around tables in groups of up to ten (10) with one (1) staff or parent volunteer acting as a scribe. Three (3) questions were posed to the attendees (the same as the online survey), which included the following:

- 1) What do you like best about the proposed plan?
- 2) What challenges do you see with the proposed plan?
- 3) Do you have any suggestions to improve the proposed plan?

**Table 14: Breakdown of Community Consultation Attendance**

| School Name     | 2015 Enrolment | Registered | Walk Ins  | Attending Registrants | Did not Attend | TOTAL Attendance |
|-----------------|----------------|------------|-----------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|
| St. Dominic CES | 625            | 67         | 15        | 29                    | 38             | <b>44</b>        |
|                 |                | 25%        | 6%        | 11%                   | 14%            | <b>16%</b>       |
| St. James CES   | 214            | 32         | 8         | 15                    | 17             | <b>23</b>        |
|                 |                | 13%        | 3%        | 6%                    | 7%             | <b>9%</b>        |
| St. Joseph CES  | 380            | 66         | 16        | 29                    | 37             | <b>45</b>        |
|                 |                | 26%        | 6%        | 12%                   | 15%            | <b>18%</b>       |
| Out of Bounds   | NA             | 14         | 2         | 3                     | 11             | <b>5</b>         |
| TOTAL           | 767            | <b>179</b> | <b>41</b> | <b>76</b>             | <b>103</b>     | <b>117</b>       |
|                 |                | 23%        | 5%        | 10%                   | 13%            | <b>10%</b>       |

Each attendee at the table had an opportunity to respond to each question and had their response recorded by the scribe. The results of the table discussions were compiled and are attached as Appendix D.

Although there was no open question session, during the breakout session, staff were available to address any comments and concerns in a small group setting. Additional questions from the community were collected on large pads of paper, for all to see, and for parents to record their questions and receive a formal response from staff. Once reviewed, staff compiled the

answers to the question and posted them on the Board website. These questions are referred to as 'Parking Lot Questions', and are included Appendix E.

### 3.2.5 Other Communications

Further to the above detailed consultation, one letter was received in hardcopy, offering feedback on the proposed recommendation. This feedback has been provided in Appendix F.



## 4.0 Transition Planning Overview

If the Board of Trustees approves staff's recommendation or part thereof, it is required under Administrative Procedure VI-35: School Accommodation Review – Closure/Consolidation, that a Transition Committee be established.

The accommodation transition may undertake the following process after final approval from the Board and the Ministry is received and funding is granted to proceed with the project:

- Re-locate all St. Joseph School students to St. James School until the construction of the new facility is completed – portable classrooms will be required;
- Once complete, re-locate St. Joseph and St. James students to the new Oakville South Central School
- Re-locate all St. Dominic School students to St. James School until the construction of the updated facility is completed – portable classrooms will be required; and,
- Once all students are relocated to their final schools, St. James School will be designated as the new Oakville Thomas Merton Adult Learning Centre.

A Transition Committee is only undertaken in the event that the Board of Trustees approves the recommended option and that Ministry Funding is approved and made available. In absence of these approvals, no change occurs.

Considerations of the Transition Committee could also include but not be limited to;

- Moving Logistics
- Home/School/Parish connections
- Transition of students
- School Organization
- School Name
- School Logo
- School Uniforms
- School Finances and Purchases
- School Closing Events
- School Community Introductions and Transition Activities
- Memorabilia, Art, Photographs and other school history
- Transition of Technology (iPads, laptops, smartboards)

Staff believes the recommended option will minimize the negative impacts for students and families. Dividing school communities is avoided in this option. Furthermore, this proposal includes a significant investment in the area, providing students and teachers with a state of the art teaching and learning facility.

## 5.0 Final Recommendation Option

In the Initial Staff Report presented to the Board of Trustees on January 19, 2016, only one (1) option was recommended by staff for the **Oakville South Central** accommodation review area. This option, which consolidates two (2) existing elementary schools, namely St. James and St. Joseph school, into one (1) new build, and the contemplated partial rebuild of St. Dominic School has been reviewed by a third party consultant, Watson and Associates. The conclusion in the review confirmed the declining enrolment trends as well as the viability of the proposed school consolidation project. No modifications were contemplated to the accommodation plan after gathering community feedback. The following subsections summarize staff's final recommendation to the Board.

### 5.1 Accommodation Plan

Based on the needs of students, staff recommends that the following actions be taken within the **Oakville South Central** accommodation review area:

- 1) Demolish the existing St. Joseph S, and construct a 504 pupil place elementary facility on the existing site for the 2017-2018 school year;
- 2) Demolish 4,412 square meter wing of the existing pre-1995 St. Dominic School wing, and construct a 377 pupil place addition, and convert the existing General Purpose Room (library) into an 88 place five (5) room child-care centre wing; and,
- 3) Close St. James, and re-locate the existing Oakville Thomas Merton Adult Learning Centre (currently leased commercial space) into the facility – \$774,000 per year lease (2015).

It should be noted that a number of comments were received as per the ultimate location of the newly constructed Oakville South Central School. Staff maintains that the location is still optimal given it's centrality to the proposed boundary and existing students, as well as its centrality to offering the Extended French Immersion program. Note that the St. Joseph Site is also optimal for the contemplated school, as was discussed in Section 2.2.4 – see Figure 4 below for concept plan.

**Figure 4: Oakville South Central School Concept Plan**



Table 15,

**Figure 5, and Figure 6**

Figure 5 present the enrolment projections of the proposed projects. It is important to note that portable classrooms are projected to be required in the first years of the proposed school openings. This is typical as the intent is to construct for long term needs and prevent constructing space that will be empty in the long term.

**Table 15: Projection – Proposed Oakville South Central Projects**

| School Name                   | OTG | Opening | 5 year projection |      |      |      |      | 10 year projection |      |      |      |      |
|-------------------------------|-----|---------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|--------------------|------|------|------|------|
|                               |     | 2017    | 2018              | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023               | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
| Oakville South Central School | 504 | 555     | 520               | 509  | 495  | 493  | 491  | 481                | 472  | 474  | 464  | 457  |
|                               |     | 110%    | 103%              | 101% | 98%  | 98%  | 97%  | 96%                | 94%  | 94%  | 92%  | 91%  |
|                               | 527 | 602     | 604               | 598  | 589  | 583  | 580  | 565                | 561  | 549  | 545  | 542  |

|                                      |                  |             |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|
| St. Dominic CES<br>(Partial Rebuild) |                  | 114%        | 115<br>%         | 114<br>%         | 112<br>%         | 111<br>%         | 110<br>%         | 107<br>%         | 106<br>%         | 104<br>%         | 103<br>%         | 103<br>%   |
| <b>Head Count</b>                    | <b>103<br/>1</b> | <b>1157</b> | <b>112<br/>4</b> | <b>110<br/>8</b> | <b>108<br/>4</b> | <b>107<br/>6</b> | <b>107<br/>1</b> | <b>104<br/>6</b> | <b>103<br/>2</b> | <b>102<br/>3</b> | <b>100<br/>9</b> | <b>999</b> |
| Utilization (%)                      |                  | 112%        | 109<br>%         | 107<br>%         | 105<br>%         | 104<br>%         | 104<br>%         | 101<br>%         | 100<br>%         | 99%              | 98%              | 97%        |
| Surplus Space (+,-)                  |                  | -126        | -93              | -77              | -53              | -45              | -40              | -15              | -1               | 8                | 22               | 32         |

Figure 5: Projection – Oakville South Central School

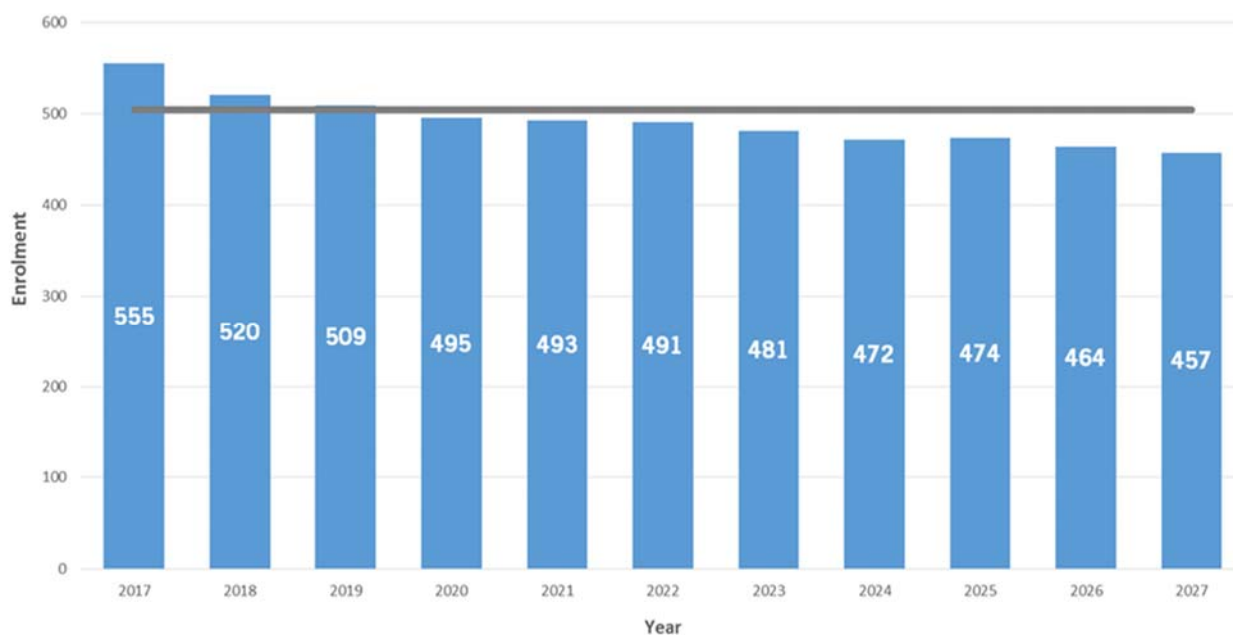


Figure 6: Projection – St. Dominic School Partial Rebuild Projects

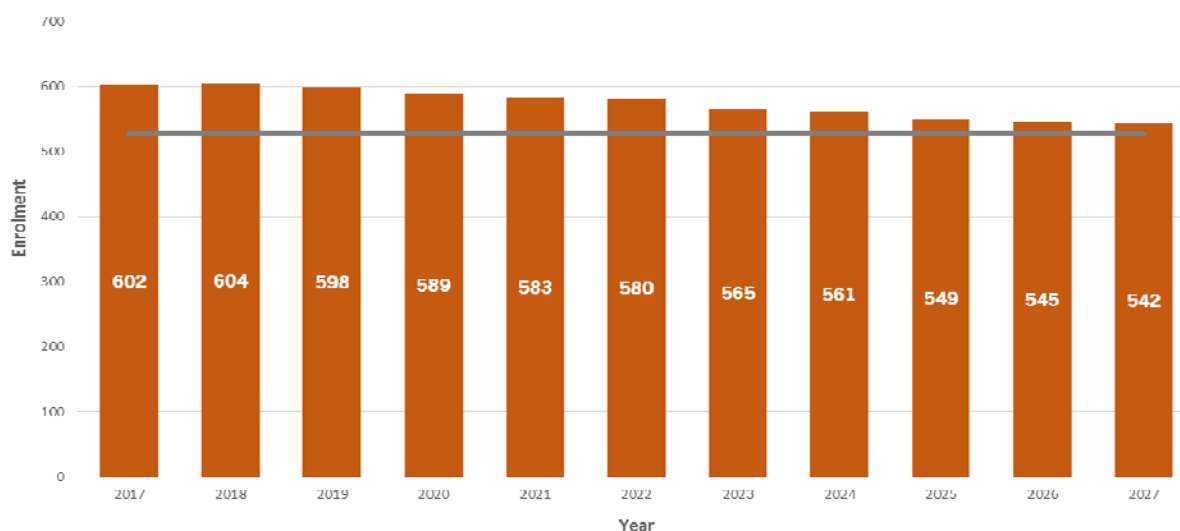


Table 16 and Table 17 below summarizes the evaluation of the proposed school consolidation option based on the staff defined criteria (introduced in Table 1 of the Interim Staff Report) to measure the viability of the proposed Oakville South Central accommodation plan.

**Table 16: Option Development Criteria Summary – Proposed Oakville South Central School**

| CRITERIA                             | DESCRIPTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | PROPOSED OAKVILLE SOUTH CENTRAL SCHOOL PROJECT                                     | (✓) |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Facility Utilization between 90-125% | The optimal utilization for a school facility is between 90-125% to ensure that operational funding (both staffing and facility) is maximized on a by pupil basis. Situations where utilization is above 100% are often introduced to ensure that the Board does not build at peak enrolment, and instead at a sustainable enrolment level.                                     | Yes, facility utilization remains above 90% and below 125% over a 10 year horizon. | (✓) |
| 500-671 FBC/OTG                      | Based on previous experiences at the Board, and following Ministry Benchmarks defined by the Expert Panel (for school design), the optimal size for a facility's Functional Building Capacity (FBC) is between 500-671 pupil places for the Board. This ensures that a wide range of program, staff, special needs, and extra-curricular options are available to the students. | Yes, 504                                                                           | (✓) |

| CRITERIA                              | DESCRIPTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | PROPOSED OAKVILLE SOUTH CENTRAL SCHOOL PROJECT                                                                                                                                        | (✓) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Portable Needs                        | Boards will often install portable classrooms at schools as a temporary accommodation solution in situations where peak student enrolment surpasses the built capacity. Portable classrooms are therefore used in situations to avoid overbuilding.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Yes, At peak of 2 portable classrooms will be required on site, and will no longer be needed after 2 years.                                                                           | (✓) |
| Accessibility                         | Review accessibility constraints on site and within the facility to ensure that equal access for all students and potential community partners is provided.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Yes, will meet current AODA guidelines and be fully accessible.                                                                                                                       | (✓) |
| Transportation Times                  | As per Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS) Operating Procedure HS-3-004 – Duration of Trip, wherever feasible bus trips shall not exceed 60 minutes for the elementary panel, and 75 minutes for the secondary panel.<br><br><i>Note: the 60 minute maximum is intended to address rural areas where distance is a factor. In-town routes are anticipated to be comparable to the average transportation time of 14 minutes for the regular track Program.</i> | All students transported will not exceed 60 minutes on the bus. Transportation times are expected to range between 10-25 minutes, reflecting the current Board average of 14 minutes. | (✓) |
| Average Distance to School            | Consists of an average distance between student households to school accommodations, whereby lower averages typically represent a more centralized location.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 2.75 kilometers                                                                                                                                                                       | (✓) |
| Site Size (Approx. 5+ acres)          | In order to provide for adequate play space, parking facilities, pick up/drop off, bus loops, and other necessary exterior accommodations, a school site of five (5) or more acres is adequate.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Preferred Size, 5.46 acres                                                                                                                                                            | (✓) |
| Adjacent Uses                         | Have consideration for adjacent uses, where some uses are more sympathetic to a school's daily operations than other (i.e. park spaces vs. commercial plaza strips).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Residential                                                                                                                                                                           | (✓) |
| Site Limitation(s)                    | Any additional factors that are unique to each school.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                   |     |
| Community Use                         | Where feasible, look to collaborative builds with Board approved community partners, as identified in Operating Procedure VI-78: Community Planning and Facility Partnerships                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                   | (✓) |
| Reduction in Pupil Places             | With the phase out of “top up funding”, does the proposal have the effect of eliminating excess pupil places?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 277 pupil places removed                                                                                                                                                              | (✓) |
| Renewal Cost Avoidance                | How much Capital Resources does the project have the effect of avoiding in renewal costs?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | \$5.97M - \$8.0M between a 5 – 10 year range                                                                                                                                          | (✓) |
| Reduction of Yearly Operational Costs | How much Operational Savings are available with the proposal?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Approximately \$210,000 per year prior to 2020/21, and approximately 874,000 per year thereafter following the termination of the                                                     | (✓) |

| CRITERIA | DESCRIPTION | PROPOSED OAKVILLE SOUTH CENTRAL SCHOOL PROJECT                              | (✓) |
|----------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
|          |             | current Oakville ALC lease, and approximately \$7.0M over a 10 year period. |     |

**Table 17: Option Development Criteria Summary – Proposed Oakville South Central School**

| CRITERIA                             | DESCRIPTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | PROPOSED OAKVILLE SOUTH CENTRAL SCHOOL PROJECT                                                                                                        | (✓) |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Facility Utilization between 90-125% | The optimal utilization for a school facility is between 90-125% to ensure that operational funding (both staffing and facility) is maximized on a by pupil basis. Situations where utilization is above 100% are often introduced to ensure that the Board does not build at peak enrolment, and instead at a sustainable enrolment level.                                                                                                                              | Yes, facility utilization remains above 90% and below 125% over a 10 year horizon.                                                                    | (✓) |
| 500-671 FBC/OTG                      | Based on previous experiences at the Board, and following Ministry Benchmarks defined by the Expert Panel (for school design), the optimal size for a facility's Functional Building Capacity (FBC) is between 500-671 pupil places for the Board.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Yes, 527                                                                                                                                              | (✓) |
| Portable Needs                       | Boards will often install portable classrooms at schools as a temporary accommodation solution in situations where peak student enrolment surpasses the built capacity. Portable classrooms are therefore used in situations to avoid overbuilding.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Yes, At peak of 4 portable classrooms will be required on site.                                                                                       | (✓) |
| Accessibility                        | Review accessibility constraints on site and within the facility to ensure that equal access for all students and potential community partners is provided.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Yes, accessibility improvements to be made to the existing school section during the rebuild to meet current AODA guidelines and be fully accessible. | (✓) |
| Transportation Times                 | As per Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS) Operating Procedure HS-3-004 – Duration of Trip, wherever feasible bus trips shall not exceed 60 minutes for the elementary panel, and 75 minutes for the secondary panel.<br><br><i>Note: the 60 minute maximum is intended to address rural areas where distance is a factor. In-town routes are anticipated to be comparable to the average transportation time of 14 minutes for the regular track Program.</i> | Status quo                                                                                                                                            | (✓) |
| Average Distance to School           | Consists of an average distance between student households to school accommodations, whereby lower averages typically represent a more centralized location.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 2.13 kilometers - Status quo                                                                                                                          | (✓) |
| Site Size (Approx. 5+ acres)         | In order to provide for adequate play space, parking facilities, pick up/drop off, bus loops, and other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Preferred Size, 7.10 acres                                                                                                                            | (✓) |

**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review:  
Oakville South Central School Project**

| <b>CRITERIA</b>                       | <b>DESCRIPTION</b>                                                                                                                                                            | <b>PROPOSED OAKVILLE SOUTH CENTRAL SCHOOL PROJECT</b>                                        | <b>(✓)</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
|                                       | necessary exterior accommodations, a school site of five (5) or more acres is adequate.                                                                                       |                                                                                              |            |
| Adjacent Uses                         | Have consideration for adjacent uses, where some uses are more sympathetic to a school's daily operations than other (i.e. park spaces vs. commercial plaza strips).          | Residential; Church                                                                          | (✓)        |
| Site Limitation(s)                    | Any additional factors that are unique to each school.                                                                                                                        | Limited frontage                                                                             |            |
| Community Use                         | Where feasible, look to collaborative builds with Board approved community partners, as identified in Operating Procedure VI-78: Community Planning and Facility Partnerships | Yes, creation of an 88 place 5 (five) room Child Care Centre, with community space included. | (✓)        |
| Reduction in Pupil Places             | With the phase out of "top up funding", does the proposal have the effect of eliminating excess pupil places?                                                                 | 0 pupil places removed                                                                       | (✓)        |
| Renewal Cost Avoidance                | How much Capital Resources does the project have the effect of avoiding in renewal costs?                                                                                     | \$5.2M - \$6.0M between a 5 – 10 year range                                                  | (✓)        |
| Reduction of Yearly Operational Costs | How much Operational Savings are available with the proposal?                                                                                                                 | Marginal                                                                                     | (✓)        |





**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Oakville South Central School Project**

# **APPENDIX A**

## Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

### Monday, January 18, 2016

- ☑ Principals impacted by MPARs take part in a teleconference about the MPAR report and potential implications for their school communities.

### Tuesday, January 19, 2016

- ☑ Principals impacted by MPARs notified that the Board of Trustees have approved to move ahead with the Modified Pupil Accommodation Review (MPAR) Process.

### Wednesday, January 20, 2016

- ☑ Website updated, with a dedicated page for each area under review: North Georgetown; Southeast Burlington; Southwest Burlington; South Oakville.
- ☑ Principals impacted by the MPARs receive key messages and FAQ to respond to parent and staff concerns.
- ☑ Letter template and FAQ for parents and staff **sent to each of the 10 Principals impacted by the MPAR for distribution to their parents and staff.**
- ☑ FAQ sheet and Principal's letter to staff shared with the Presidents of the Board's unionized employee groups.
- ☑ **School Staff Meetings** set up, as follows:
  - Monday, January 25 at 3:30 p.m. – St. Patrick
  - Wednesday, January 27 at 3:30 p.m. – St. James
  - Thursday, January 28 at 3:00 p.m. – Holy Cross
  - Monday, February 1 at 4:00 p.m. – St. Joseph
  - Tuesday, February 2 at 3:00 p.m. – St. John
  - Wednesday, February 3 at 4:00 p.m. - Ascension
  - Thursday, February 4 at 3:10 p.m. – St. Dominic
  - Thursday, February 4 at 3:30 p.m. – St. Paul
  - Friday, February 5 at 9:00 a.m. – St. Raphael
  - Wednesday, February 10 at 4:00 p.m. – St. Francis
- ☑ **Meetings with Catholic School Councils** set up as follows:
  - Wednesday, February 3, 2016 - Holy Cross
  - Thursday, February 4, 2016 – St. James
  - Monday, February 8, 2016 – St. Paul

## Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

- Thursday, February 11, 2016 – St. Raphael
- Wednesday, February 17, 2016 – St. Patrick
- Thursday, February 18, 2016 – St. Joseph
- Monday, February 22, 2016 – St. Francis of Assis
- Tuesday, February 23, 2016 – St. Dominic
- Thursday, February 25, 2016 - Ascension
- Monday, February 29, 2016 – St. John
- ☑ **Community Consultation Meetings** set up, as follows:
  - **Wednesday, March 2, 2016** at 7:00 p.m. at Assumption CSS – [Southeast Burlington](#)
  - **Thursday, March 3, 2016** at 7:00 p.m. at Christ the King CSS – [North Georgetown](#)
  - **Monday, March 7, 2016** at 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas CSS – [South Oakville](#)
  - **Tuesday, March 8, 2016** at 7:00 pm. At Assumption CSS – [Southwest Burlington](#)

### Friday, January 22, 2016

- ☑ **Information packages sent in hardcopy and via email to the following:** Clerks  
Departments at the 3 municipalities and the Region of Halton; coterminous boards; Ministry of Education

### Monday, January 25, 2016

- ☑ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Patrick

### Tuesday, January 26, 2016

- ☑ **Community Updates** hand-delivered to the neighbouring residents adjacent to the schools under review.
- ☑ An **email sent to parishes impacted by the MPARs**, to share information and request a time to meet.
- ☑ Meetings with the Pastors at parishes that are adjacent to school sites were set up as follows:
  - Thursday, January 28, 2016 –Msgr. Modeski, St. Patrick Parish
  - Tuesday, February 9, 2016 –Fr. Anderson, St. Dominic and Fr. Lensson, St. James
  - Friday, February 12, 2016 – Fr. Sims, St. John the Baptist
  - Wednesday, February 17, 2016 – Fr. Wagner, St. Raphael

## Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

### Wednesday, January 27, 2016

- ☒ **Online discussion forums created** for each of the four review areas.
- ☒ **Email invitation sent to Principals, and asked to share with all staff** - to attend Consultation Meetings and to share concerns on online forums.
- ☒ **Follow-up letter sent to all parents** (from Principals) in review areas – **inviting them to attend Consultation Meetings** and to **share concerns on online forums**. This information provided as information to Principals.
  - **Email** to all Ascension, St. Patrick and St. Raphael parents through the parent notification system to invite them to Consultation Meeting to take place on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - **Email** to all Holy Cross and St. Francis parents through the parent notification system to invite them to Consultation Meeting to take place on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - **Email** to all St. Dominic, St. James and St. Joseph through the parent notification system to invite them to Consultation Meeting to take place on March 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Email** to all St. John and St. Paul parents through the parent notification system to invite them to Consultation Meeting to take place on March 8<sup>th</sup>.
- ☒ **School Staff Meeting** at St. James.

### Thursday, January 28, 2016

- ☒ A letter sent from School SO to Catholic School Councils in 10 impacted schools to invite them to an information session.
- ☒ **News release** to our media contacts, which includes the date of the Community Consultation Meetings, as well as links to the Board's website for more information and to register to attend.
- ☒ The information about the MPAR Consultation Meetings **posted on the front page of our website** in the **sliding news**.
- ☒ A letter sent via email to the Mayors of Burlington, Halton Hills and Oakville.
- ☒ A letter sent via email to the local councillors in the communities impacted by the MPARs.
- ☒ A letter sent via email to the local MPPs in the communities impacted by the MPARs.
- ☒ A letter sent via email to the Regional Chair.
- ☒ **News Release sent out** about Community Consultation Meetings scheduled in March.
- ☒ A **schedule of tweets and posts set up** to communicate the information about the Community Consultation Meetings through our social media channels.
- ☒ **School Staff Meeting** at Holy Cross.
- ☒ Meeting with Msgr. Modeski, St. Patrick Parish.

## Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

### Monday, February 1, 2016

- ☒ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Joseph.
- ☒ **Presentation to CPIC.**

### Tuesday, February 2, 2016

- ☒ **School Staff Meeting** at St. John.

### Wednesday, February 3, 2016

- ☐ **School Staff Meeting** at Ascension.
- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at Holy Cross.

### Thursday, February 4, 2016

- ☐ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Dominic.
- ☐ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Paul.
- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. James.

### Friday, February 5, 2016

- ☐ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Raphael.

### Monday, February 8, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Paul.

### Tuesday, February 9, 2016

- ☐ Meeting with Fr. Anderson, St. Dominic Parish and Fr. Lensson, St. James Parish.

### Wednesday, February 10, 2016

- ☐ Meeting with Jim Long, Episcopal Director, Diocese of Hamilton.
- ☐ **School Staff Meeting** at St. Francis of Assisi.

## Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

### Thursday, February 11, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Raphael.

### Friday, February 12, 2016

- ☐ Meeting with Fr. Sims, St. John the Baptist Parish.

### Wednesday, February 17, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Raphael.
- ☐ Meeting with Fr. Wagner, St. Raphael Parish.

### Thursday, February 18, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Joseph.

### Monday, February 22, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Francis of Assisi.

### Tuesday, February 23, 2016

- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. Dominic.

### Wednesday, February 24, 2016

- ☐ **Online survey posted.**
- ☐ **Reminder** message (one week in advance) sent to Ascension, St. Patrick and St. Raphael parents about Consultation Meeting, **as well as to offer an opportunity to those who do not plan to attend the Consultation Meeting to provide their feedback through an online survey.**
- ☐ **Reminder** also communicated through **Twitter and Facebook.**
- ☐ **A message sent to all schools for their school newsletters/websites.**

## Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

- ☐ A follow-up **email to be sent to parishes** for consideration in sharing the information about consultation meeting with their parish community. Prepared **announcement/bulletin message** provided.

### Thursday, February 25, 2016

- ☐ **Reminder** message (one week in advance) to Holy Cross and St. Francis parents about Consultation Meeting.
- ☐ **Reminder** also communicated through **Twitter and Facebook**.
- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at Ascension.

### Monday, February 29, 2016

- ☐ **Reminder** message (one week in advance) to St. Dominic, St. James, and St. Joseph parents about Consultation Meeting.
- ☐ **Reminder** also communicated through **Twitter and Facebook**.
- ☐ **CSC Info Session** at St. John.

### Tuesday, March 1, 2016

- ☐ **Reminder** message (one week in advance) to St. John and St. Paul parents about Consultation Meeting.
- ☐ **Reminder** also communicated through **Twitter and Facebook**.

### Wednesday, March 2, 2016

- ☐ **Community Consultation Meeting** for **Southeast Burlington** – 7:00 p.m. at Assumption CSS.

### Thursday, March 3, 2016

- ☐ **Follow-up email** to all Ascension, St. Patrick and St. Raphael parents to thank those who attended the Community Consultation, and to remind those who did not attend of the opportunity to provide their **feedback through an online survey**.
- ☐ This information also **communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.
- ☐ **Community Consultation Meeting** for **North Georgetown** – 7:00 p.m. at Christ the King CSS.

## Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

### Friday, March 4, 2016

- ☐ **Follow-up email** to all Holy Cross and St. Francis parents to thank those who attended the Community Consultation, and to offer an opportunity to those who did not to provide their **feedback through an online survey**.
- ☐ This information also **communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.

### Monday, March 7, 2016

- ☐ **Community Consultation Meeting** for **South Oakville** – 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas CSS.

### Tuesday, March 8, 2016

- ☐ **Follow-up email** to all St. Dominic, St. James and St. Joseph parents to thank those who attended the Community Consultation, and to remind those who did not attend of the opportunity to provide their **feedback through an online survey**.
- ☐ This information also **communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.
- ☐ **Community Consultation Meeting** for **Southwest Burlington** – 7:00 p.m. at Assumption CSS.

### Wednesday, March 9, 2016

- ☐ **Follow-up email** to all St. John and St. Paul parents to thank those who attended the Community Consultation, and to remind those who did not attend of the opportunity to provide their **feedback through an online survey**.
- ☐ This information also **communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.
- ☐ **Reminder email** to all parents to **participate in the online survey** before it closes on Wednesday, March 11, 2016.
- ☐ Reminder **also communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.

### Friday, March 11, 2016

- ☐ Reminder **also communicated through Twitter and Facebook**.



## Modified Pupil Accommodation Reviews – Communications Plan

### Friday, March 18, 2016

- ☐ **Email to all elementary parents** to thank them for their participation in the process, and to **let to let them know that the report has been posted** on the Board's website. The email will also note that the report will be presented to Trustees at the April 5, 2016 Board Meeting, and **review the process and timelines for delegations.**
- ☐ This information **communicated through Twitter and Facebook.**

### Tuesday, March 22, 2016

- ☐ **Special Board Meeting** – final report and recommendations presented to Board of Trustees

### Tuesday, April 5, 2016

- ☐ **Regular Board Meeting** – delegations received.

### Tuesday, April 19, 2016

- ☐ **Regular Board Meeting** – final decision by the Board of Trustees.

### Wednesday, April 20, 2016

- ☐ **Email** from School Superintendent to **10 Principals in impacted school communities to notify them about the decision of the Board on the final recommendations.**
- ☐ **A letter sent home to all parents** from School Superintendent to let them know about the decision of the Board.
- ☐ This information **also communicated through Twitter and Facebook.**



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Oakville South Central School Project**

# **APPENDIX B**


[MY FEED](#)
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Unverified account

Please check your email to verify your account.

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4d in [General Discussion – Oakville South](#)  
PAR 1 3

## School name – make it St. Joseph or St. James

At the meeting held on March 7 it was noted that the students of the new school will be permitted to name it (within certain parameters). May I suggest the choices be limited to either St. Joseph or St. James. The reason being uniforms. Let's say the new name is St. Joseph (could be either). Then let St. Joseph and St. James uniforms be permitted in the new school and instruct the uniform supplier to cease making St. James uniforms. Over a short time everyone will transition to St. Joseph uniforms

### CHANNELS

[General Discussion – Oakville South PAR](#)
[St. Dominic Catholic Elementary School](#)
[St. James Catholic Elementary School](#)
[St. Joseph \(Oakville\) Catholic Elementary School](#)
[ONLINE 1](#)

through attrition at zero incremental cost to families. If a new name is chosen which is not St. Joseph or St. James then EVERY family from both schools will have to purchase new uniforms again and would thus represent a significant cost which would easily be avoided. Thank you.



2d 1

I suggest the name be combined, just like a first and middle name..i.e.

St Joseph James Elementary Catholic School. It would represent the spirit of both our neighbourhoods and children becoming one Catholic Community



24d in [General Discussion – Oakville South PAR](#) 3 2

## Super idea!

I am so excited about this proposal! A fresh, brand new school, with the latest tech and hopefully smart boards in all classrooms, and a larger comp lab and gym are what many parents have been hoping for! More young teachers means more extra- – curriculars. I'm all for it! How long will the complete construction take?



23d 1

Our family is fully supportive of the proposal.

Obviously, a state of the art facility is very appealing but we are also excited about everything that a slightly larger school community can offer our kids that our current sized schools can not.

1. Larger selection of friends and social interactions for our children

-a 500 pupil school is what is being proposed, which I honestly don't think is that big

-plus, when our kids go off to high school they are entering a system where schools have 900+ students...which is a huge change when you are use to being with only 250-350 kids and sometimes with the exact same kids in your class year after year

-while smaller schools can be wonderful, our kids social network can be limited (ie if there is only 1 grade 4 class with 5 girls and your child doesn't get along with 2 of them, then they only have 2 friends in the classroom and since the school is small, they could be in that situation for several years)

2. Greater resources for our teachers

-more teachers to lean on each other for support (ie more people to bounce ideas off , more people to spread work over, less burn out for our teachers)

-facilities that match the circular they are expected to deliver

-more parents to help with and organize community events and activities

3. A full sized gym!

-I think a proper sized gym will actually do a lot to help form a sense of community in the school

-the entire school population plus their families would be able to attend and participate in school events (ie school wide mass and assemblies, school concerts, science fairs, hosting sporting events etc)

I think it's a great idea that will really benefit our kids.



19d ❤️ 1

Our Family is also in support of this idea. We believe that this will be a great thing for our children but also for all the children to come over the next 40+ years



4d

Agree! It's a great proposal.

Reply...




12d in General Discussion – Oakville South PAR 3 ❤️ 2



**New school w/ 12 portables, 1/2 play area and a parking lot across a key walkway**


In reviewing the most recent communication from the HCDSB I cannot help but notice a number of things

I cannot help but notice a number of things that can be quite bothersome and indicative of the fact that this proposal is based on a desire to take advantage of a "window of opportunity" to use Ministry funding for consolidation purposes (page 11 of the Overview presentation), and has very little to do with children's educational needs and well being. I encourage parents to pay particular attention to the following presented data points:



1. Current enrolment for St James and St Joseph is 594 children – the school is being designed for 504 pupils and on the proposed map there is room for 12 portables -> i.e. there will be kids who will go through a year of two of upheaval so they can land into a portable classroom
2. Twice the number of kids will have approximately half the current outside play area – a significant portion will be occupied by a parking lot
3. The parking lot will now cross the cat walk used by many kids from the neighbourhood who walk to school – let's hope everyone has had their morning coffee at drop off and no kids get run over
4. The consultation format is especially designed so people can get a partial view of the merits or demerits of the proposal – the small group format ensures that people may not hear all of the same answers to all of the same questions nor could they organize around a dominant community opinion

 Very great points!


 4d  1  
Great points! Were they discussed at the meeting? I missed it.

 4d  
We were all divided in groups so it depends what table u were at...more ppl seemed more concerned about the transition rather than the facility or space at our table...they did say 3 portables not 12. It was also stated they don't think it will happen for September as the Municipality has to approve and then permits etc and emptying out the current school... "Won't happen" they said ☺

Reply...

 27d in St. Joseph (Oakville) Catholic Elementary School  2  1  
**Busing to St. James for St. Joseph students**

will all students currently in walking distance to St. Joseph be bused to St James? What will the guideline be? Where will bus pick up/drop off be located?

 HCDSB-PAR Admin 21d  
Bus pick up and drop off locations, and

16/03/2016

All posts | Halton Catholic MPAR

transportation eligibility will be determined in consultation with Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS) if this proposal moves forward. The HSTS Operating Procedure states that elementary students that reside more than 1.6 kilometers from their school are eligible for transportation. Hope this information helps.



8d 1

So, to be clear, if you are under the 1.6 KM's, therefore not eligible per HSTS rules- you will not get bussing? We can walk to school in this neighbourhood and you are reaccommodating us. We moved here for this reason to be in walking distance. This needs to be revisited as you will have some very angry parents who feel it is too far to walk.

Reply...



HCDSB-PAR Admin 7w in St. James Catholic Elementary School 4

## Oakville South QEW Neighbourhood Pupil Accommodation Review (St. James)

On January 19, 2016, the Board approved the initiation of the Oakville South QEW Neighbourhood Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR), as it relates to the following schools:

<https://muut.com/oakville-south-mpar>

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16/03/2016

All posts | Halton Catholic MPAR

**St. Dominic Catholic Elementary School**

**St. James Catholic Elementary School**

**St. Joseph (Oakville) Catholic Elementary School**

For more information about the PAR process, please visit our website: ([bit.ly/OakvilleSouthPAR](https://bit.ly/OakvilleSouthPAR))

Parents and members of the community can share their opinions and provide their comments below, and are also welcome to attend the **Community Consultation Meeting**, which will take place on: Monday, March 7, 2016 at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School, at 7:00 p.m.

[X Register for the Consultation Meeting here](#)



7w 1

I know many parents will have this same question. I have spent well over \$1000 in school uniforms. IF St. James closes, are we expected to go out and buy all new uniforms? Much of the St. James community is not in a financial position to purchase another set of uniforms. How will this be addressed?



HCDSB-PAR Admin 7w

This is a great question. If this proposal is approved and we move ahead with the consolidation of the two schools, we would look at a number of factors to ease transition, including the school uniform.

We understand that buying uniforms is costly, and

<https://muut.com/oakville-south-mpar>

8/22

we will find ways to support families through the transition period. This would include phasing in the new uniform by allowing students to continue to wear their old uniform top (the pants are identical in all elementary schools) until the child outgrows it, and until new uniform pieces can be acquired over time. Any consolidation of schools with uniforms would allow for a 1-2 year transition period.



7w

good to know...thank you.




18d  1

I think we could easily create a patch with the new schools name and emblem to sow over the St. Joe's and St. James crest. Just an idea.

Reply...



HCDSB-PAR Admin 7w in **St. Joseph (Oakville) Catholic Elementary School**  1


## Oakville South QEW Neighbourhood Pupil Accommodation Review (St. Joseph Oakville)

On January 19, 2016, the Board approved the initiation of the Oakville South QEW Neighbourhood Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR), as it relates to the following schools:

### St. Dominic Catholic Elementary School

### St. James Catholic Elementary School

### St. Joseph (Oakville) Catholic Elementary School

For more information about the PAR process, please visit our website: ( [bit.ly/OakvilleSouthPAR](https://bit.ly/OakvilleSouthPAR))

Parents and members of the community can share their opinions and provide their comments below, and are also welcome to attend the **Community Consultation Meeting**, which will take place on: Monday, March 7, 2016 at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School, at 7:00 p.m.

 [Register for the Consultation Meeting here](#)



25d  2

A few points I would like to mention here:

1. The biggest challenge for parents and kids would be bussing to school. Kids in the community will no longer be able to walk or bike to school. The main reason we moved to this particular area was the close school proximity. When our school is no longer at the walking distance, everyone loses. It means no healthy exercise for children in the morning and afternoon, no possibility to use school grounds on the weekends, lack of feeling that you belong to the community, no opportunity to attend community events that happen at school.

2. The bigger school is not always better. It would be a tremendous loss for our wonderful St. Joseph

community. This is why people move to Oakville – to have their kids attend those small, safe community schools as opposed to overcrowded schools in big cities. It is proven that smaller schools provide safer environment for happier kids.

3. St. Joseph's area is changing. When you read newspapers and observe what happens in the community, you would notice that many houses are being built in the area and new, young families are moving in. We need our school to accommodate all these kids in near future.

3. All changes should be our families' well-being driven and not cost cutting driven only. HCDSB should think about the safe, caring and healthy environment for our children first. Cost effectiveness should be secondary here. We all belong to an amazing community of St. Joseph School. Let's not destroy this.

Reply...



6w in St. Joseph (Oakville) Catholic Elementary School 3 1

## What is This Proposal Solutioning For?

I am curious about the core objective and guiding principles that led the development of your proposal.

SW Oakville is going through a transitional period with many young families with children moving in –

we have all experienced "surprise" years where the

we have all experienced "surprise" years where the enrolment numbers instead of dipping, rise and kids are squished into portables. Instead of ensuring schools are well packed to the brim, have you explored better use for the additionally available space at St James (science lab? lunch room?) and how about all the money that will be spend on tearing down and re-building St Joe's – aren't there alternative, more efficient and effective uses of the moneys (fixing the play grounds and fields, renovating for general refresh, maybe building an addition for the current body of students with science and computer lab, and lunch room). If St. Joe's currently has issues with parking, and full accommodation of students, how would you fit twice the student population, accommodate parking at drop off and pick up, and provide kids with sufficient outside space for play and sports?

To help us seriously evaluate your proposal and discuss the matter on a well-informed basis, I will very much appreciate it if you can: (1) crisply define the opportunity or problem your proposal is addressing (i.e. what is this about?), (2) articulate the principles that guided your solutioning process (i.e. what believes underpin how you went about developing the proposal?) and (3) outline the alternatives you assessed to ensure you your proposed course of action is in fact the best alternative (i.e. what gives you comfort that this proposal is in fact a good one?)

Thank you.



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All posts | Halton Catholic MPAR



HCDSB-PAR Admin · 0W

Staff have looked at all the options, and the site where St. Joseph currently sits provides the best feasibility. It is much larger than the St. James site (5.46 acres as opposed to 3.6 acres) and will be able to hold a two-storey building that can accommodate 504 students. The proposed school design will feature all the latest 21st Century options that you describe.



26d

But why is consolidation the goal where a lot less kids will be able to walk to and from school?

26d 2

While one location is better than the other, that doesn't mean consolidation is a good idea to begin with – what is driving this push for one large school that likely will soon be inadequate to serve the community future needs instead of modernizing the two existing schools ?

Reply...



27d in General Discussion – Oakville South  
PAR 1 1

## Bell times/after school program

As a working parent, i am wondering how you plan to handle the bell times and after school program,

<https://muut.com/oakville-south-mpar>

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All posts | Halton Catholic MPAR

during and after the transition? Currently St Joseph' bell times are 8:25 am / 2:55 pm and St James: 8:50 am / 3:20 pm. Will the after school program be offered at St James?



HCDSB-PAR Admin · 26d

Thanks for contacting us. If this proposal is approved, school bell times would be determined in consultation with Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS). All of our schools offer a Before and After School Program. Hope this information helps!

Reply...



6w in St. James Catholic Elementary School 2

## What is the Proposal Solutioning For?

I am curious about the core objective and guiding principles that led the development of your proposal. SW Oakville is going through a transitional period with many young families with children moving in – we have all experienced “surprise” years where the enrolment numbers instead of dipping rise and kids are squished into portables. Instead of ensuring schools are well packed to the brim, have you explored better use for the additionally available space at St James (science lab? lunch room?) and how about all the money that will be spend on

<https://muut.com/oakville-south-mpar>

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tearing down and re-building St Joe's – aren't there alternative, more efficient and effective uses of the moneys (fixing the pay grounds and fields, renovating for general refresh, maybe building an addition for the current body of students with science and computer lab, and lunch room). If St. James is underutilized by the kids living in the area, what utilization do you project to have based on the alternative use for the school you propose – how many adults can possibly attend the programs you plan to host there during the day?

I will very much appreciate it if you can: (1) crisply define the opportunity or problem your proposal is addressing, (2) articulate the principles that guided your solutioning process and (3) outline the alternatives you assessed to ensure you your proposed course of action is in fact the best alternative.

Thank you.



6w

I love the idea of a science lab and lunch room. Specified sports room and/or improvements to the gym would be great too. Very good points raised here. Thank you for sharing.



6w 2

Good points. I see in my neighbourhood how many new young families are moving into our area. I worry about over crowding too in a few years

Reply...



6w in St. James Catholic Elementary School 1

## accommodations at St James

will any changes/improvements be made to St James to accommodate the added staff/students? Washroom facilities? Office space? Staff room? etc?



HCDSB-PAR Admin 6w

If this proposal is approved by the Board of Trustees and the Ministry of Education, we will make sure the necessary arrangements are made to be able to accommodate both school communities at St. James during the construction of the new school. We think this would mean the addition of approximately 4 portables.

Reply...



7w in St. James Catholic Elementary School 1

## Busing

Busing

0

16/03/2016

All posts | Halton Catholic MPAR

curious to know whether busing will be expanded during the transition from St James to St Joe's. Currently St James only has 1 bus. When and if St James closes, and those students are required to go to St Joe's...we hope that adequate busing will be provided.Like



HCDSB-PAR Admin 6w

Thank you for your patience. We looked into this for you, and here is what our transportation consortium have told us:

- most of the students currently attending St. James would need to be bussed to the new school location (currently St. Joseph)
- Exceptions to the transportation policy west of Third Line and south of Rebecca St are currently in place for St Joseph students
- Crossing Guard location at Fourth Line and Bridge Rd (currently for Pinegrove PS students) would assist students across Fourth Line from St James boundary who are under 1.6 km.
- The crossing guard schedule would have to be reviewed to determine if it would accommodate the St. James students being re-directed to St. Joseph CES).
- the estimated time on the bus will not exceed 30 minutes.

Hope this helps.

Reply...

<https://muut.com/oakville-south-mpar>

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16/03/2016

All posts | Halton Catholic MPAR



7w in General Discussion – Oakville South PAR 1 1

## Bussing

curios to know whether bussing will be expanded during the transition from St James to St Joe's. Currently St James only has 1 bus. When and if St James closes, and those students are required to go to St Joe's...we hope that adequate bussing will be provided.

7w

oops...hate spelling errors. Busing is the correct spelling.

Reply...



HCDSB-PAR Admin 7w in General Discussion – Oakville South PAR

## Rules of Conduct for Online Forums

From time to time, we may establish online forums to encourage parents, staff and members of our community to share their comments and ask questions on a particular matter. For more information, please visit our [Social Media Guidelines](#).

<https://muut.com/oakville-south-mpar>

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**Appropriate Language:** Please avoid personal attacks, slurs, and profanity in your activities on the forum.

**Confidentiality:** Please do not post anything on the forum that you do not want the world to see. You should not post personally identifiable information (such as your child's name, address, telephone number, etc.), or other confidential information.

#### Basic Rules:

- **Please treat all other participants in the forum with respect.** Do not use the forum to threaten, harass, demean or insult other users. Remember that other participants are members of your community.

- Do not use the forum to spam others. Spam includes sending identical and irrelevant or unsolicited submissions to many different users, and includes misrepresenting the source of anything you post.

- Do not use the forum to link to external sites that violate these Rules of Conduct.

- Information posted may be collected for the sole purpose of informing the Halton Catholic District School Board and its staff on a particular decision or matter.

- Any personal information will not be shared in any public reports or documents.

**Please be advised that our Board has the right to remove and/or report any of the following:**

- Comments/posts that do not comply with our mission, vision, and values.
- Comments/posts that violate the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- Comments/posts that are confidential in nature or offer personal and/or financial information.
- Comments/posts that are derogatory, abusive, demeaning, slanderous, hateful, discriminatory and/or racist or in any way insinuate cyber bullying.
- Spam, solicitations or advertisements.
- Any comments/posts that suggest illegal behaviour.

**Please review the above information before participating in any online interactions.**

Reply...



HCDSB-PAR Admin 7w in St. Dominic Catholic Elementary School ❤️ 1

## Oakville South QEW Neighbourhood Pupil Accommodation Review (St. Dominic)

On January 19, 2016, the Board approved the initiation of the Oakville South QEW Neighbourhood Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR), as it relates to the following schools:

**St. Dominic Catholic Elementary School**

**St. James Catholic Elementary School**

**St. Joseph (Oakville) Catholic Elementary School**

For more information about the PAR process, please visit our website: ([bit.ly/OakvilleSouthPAR](https://bit.ly/OakvilleSouthPAR))

Parents and members of the community can share their opinions and provide their comments below, and are also welcome to attend the **Community Consultation Meeting**, which will take place on: Monday, March 7, 2016 at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School, at 7:00 p.m.

[✖ Register for the Consultation Meeting here](#)

Reply...



HCDSB-PAR Admin 7w in General Discussion – Oakville South PAR

## Oakville South QEW Neighbourhood Pupil Accommodation Review

On January 19, 2016, the Board approved the initiation of the Oakville South QEW Neighbourhood Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR), as it relates to the following schools:

**St. Dominic Catholic Elementary School** ([bit.ly/StDominicOakville](https://bit.ly/StDominicOakville))

[bit.ly/StDominicOakville](https://bit.ly/StDominicOakville)

<https://muut.com/oakville-south-mpar>

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[bit.ly/StDominicOakville](https://bit.ly/StDominicOakville))

**St. James Catholic Elementary School** ([bit.ly/StJamesOakville](https://bit.ly/StJamesOakville))

[bit.ly/StJamesOakville](https://bit.ly/StJamesOakville))

**St. Joseph (Oakville) Catholic Elementary School** ([bit.ly/StJosephOakville](https://bit.ly/StJosephOakville))

For more information about the PAR process, please visit our website: ([bit.ly/OakvilleSouthPAR](https://bit.ly/OakvilleSouthPAR))

Parents and members of the community can share their opinions and provide their comments below, and are also welcome to attend the **Community Consultation Meeting**, which will take place on: Monday, March 7, 2016 at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School, at 7:00 p.m.

[✖ Register for the Consultation Meeting here](#)

Reply...

11

<https://muut.com/oakville-south-mpar>

22/22



5d in **St. Joseph (Oakville) Catholic Elementary School**

Has an increase in enrolment been considered by the Board?

When the new school is built at the St. Joe's site chances are that enrolment from the neighbourhood will increase. At the very least new families enrolling their kids at St. Dominic for FDK, or considering grade 5 French Immersion would likely prefer their kids to start at the newly built school rather than go through the dislocation of the transition period. Why can't the new school be at least big enough to accommodate the full current population of St. Joe's and St. James? If you believe in the decline in enrolment, why plan for 12 portables?



5d  1

I suspect that when the new school is built, enrolment will actually increase from current total for St. Joe and St. James. At a minimum if you are a parent who has considered St. Dominic, you may as well register your kids at St. Joe's and not commute to St. James during the transition period for St. Dominic. That will make even more sense if you are also interested in your kids enrolling in Grade 5 French Immersion. And that's why building a school that is too small by design is a horrible idea. Also why you see 12 portables on the plan and not the 3 mentioned in the session. The board needs to demonstrate decrease in enrolment to get the funding, and when there isn't a decrease, but an increase, they will have the spot for the right number of portables.



5d

Maybe they won't allow cross boundaries? But yes I agree, the principal at St Doms did mention she has a lot of kids from our catchment area there so I assume many of those kids may move back to the brand new school as well... we will be over in #'s for many years 😞



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Oakville South Central School Project**

# **APPENDIX C**



# 2015-16 Pupil Accommodation Reviews

Online Community Feedback

Prepared by:  
*Research & Development Services*  
3/18/2016

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# 2015-16 Pupil Accommodation Reviews

## Summary of Online Community Feedback

Prior to and following the individual Community Consultation Meetings held March 2, 3, 7, and 8 at HCDSB secondary schools, parents, students, staff, community and parish members were provided with an opportunity to submit their feedback about the proposed Pupil Accommodation Reviews via HCDSB's online survey system. The online feedback collection form remained open for parent responses from Wednesday February 17, 2016 until Friday March 11, 2016. This report provides a summary of the online responses received.

### Online Pupil Accommodation Review Survey Response Breakdown

- 320 feedback forms were received
  - 123 forms were completed for the Burlington Southeast of QEW Review
  - 51 forms were completed for the Georgetown Review
  - 58 forms were completed for the Oakville South Review
  - 88 forms were completed for the Burlington Southwest of the QEW Review

The following table displays the number of feedback forms that were completed for each of the schools affected in the Pupil Accommodation Review. The feedback forms where respondents did not identify the school are reported as Blank.

| Burlington Southeast  | #   | Georgetown             | #  |
|-----------------------|-----|------------------------|----|
| Ascension             | 28  | Holy Cross             | 24 |
| St. Patrick           | 34  | St. Francis of Assissi | 26 |
| St. Raphael           | 40  | Blank                  | 1  |
| Blank                 | 21  |                        |    |
| TOTAL                 | 123 | TOTAL                  | 51 |
| Oakville South        | #   | Burlington Southwest   | #  |
| St. Dominic           | 23  | St. John               | 24 |
| St. James             | 6   | St. Paul               | 50 |
| St. Joseph (Oakville) | 27  | Blank                  | 14 |
| Blank                 | 2   |                        |    |
| TOTAL                 | 58  | TOTAL                  | 88 |

### Support for the Pupil Accommodation Review

In some cases (not all), it was difficult to discern whether the respondent supported the Pupil Accommodation Review plan prepared by the Board. While some respondents directly communicated that they "Loved it" or "Liked nothing about it", Research and Development Services acknowledged that the majority of respondents were responding to the three questions posed – identifying what they liked, challenges that they foresaw, and suggestions for improvement.

In order to paint a picture of the nature of the comments received, Research and Development Services coded and reported the percentage of respondents who provided a constructive comment

for each of the three questions. These percentages are broken down by school, to capture patterns that exist among school communities. Percentages are reported for groups of 15 or more.

### Burlington Southeast of the QEW

| School<br>(forms received) | Question 1<br>What do you like best...? | Question 2<br>What are the challenges you see...? | Question 3<br>Do you have any suggestions to improve the plan? |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ascension (28)             | 24 (85.7%)                              | 25 (89.3%)                                        | 17 (60.7%)                                                     |
| St. Patrick (34)           | 14 (41.2%)                              | 30 (88.2%)                                        | 27 (79.4%)                                                     |
| St. Raphael (40)           | 20 (50%)                                | 37 (92.5%)                                        | 31 (77.5%)                                                     |
| Blank (21)                 | 7 (33.3%)                               | 19 (90.5%)                                        | 17 (81%)                                                       |

### Georgetown

| School<br>(forms received) | Question 1<br>What do you like best...? | Question 2<br>What are the challenges you see...? | Question 3<br>Do you have any suggestions to improve the plan? |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Holy Cross (24)            | 24 (91.7%)                              | 19 (79.2%)                                        | 15 (62.5%)                                                     |
| St. Francis (26)           | 17 (65.4%)                              | 21 (80.8%)                                        | 12 (46.2%)                                                     |
| Blank (1)                  |                                         | 1                                                 | 1                                                              |

### Oakville South

| School<br>(forms received) | Question 1<br>What do you like best...? | Question 2<br>What are the challenges you see...? | Question 3<br>Do you have any suggestions to improve the plan? |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| St. Dominic (23)           | 16 (69.6%)                              | 16 (69.6%)                                        | 13 (56.5%)                                                     |
| St. James (6)              | 3                                       | 5                                                 | 4                                                              |
| St. Joseph (27)            | 21 (77.8%)                              | 24 (88.9%)                                        | 15 (55.5%)                                                     |
| Blank (2)                  | 1                                       | 2                                                 | 1                                                              |

### Burlington Southwest of the QEW

| School<br>(forms received) | Question 1<br>What do you like best...? | Question 2<br>What are the challenges you see...? | Question 3<br>Do you have any suggestions to improve the plan? |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| St. John (24)              | 12 (50%)                                | 23 (95.8%)                                        | 18 (75%)                                                       |
| St. Paul (50)              | 11 (22%)                                | 43 (86%)                                          | 41 (82%)                                                       |
| Blank (14)                 | 2                                       | 10                                                | 8                                                              |

## Low Response

Although the feedback received was from communities with some lower enrollment schools, the amount of feedback that was received was lower than anticipated. Given that the Board of Trustees would be making decisions about the most appropriate pupil accommodation arrangements for the HCDSB (which may lead to school consolidations and/or closures) after they had the opportunity to read and reflect on the comments provided by the community, the Research

Department predicted a higher response for the online survey. The online feedback form was open to all members of each community. The form could be accessed via the Board's public website, where all of the information for the PARs was located. The following possible explanations for this phenomenon are outlined below.

### Multiple Opportunities to Provide Feedback

Parents, students, staff, community and parish members were provided with various outlets to provide feedback on the proposed plan affecting their community. Interested stakeholders could submit input on the plan: 1. at the Community Consultation; 2. in the online discussion forum; 3. and through the Online Survey System. Further, 4. letters and emails received by the Board were also reviewed and documented in the reports. It is possible that the lower than expected response to the online feedback form is a result of community members choosing an alternate way to submit their input on the proposed plan.

### Sampling and Non-response

The online feedback form, or survey, allowed for the equal opportunity for all interested parties, regardless of opinion to participate in and provide their concerns – meaning it was fair and open to all. This means that the vast majority of individuals who had an opportunity to weigh in on the survey did not participate in the survey when they had the opportunity to do so. The non-response rate does demonstrate a bias, in that, parties who were upset or disagreed with the proposal tended to respond, and this reflects the reality that the majority of people did not disagree or have an issue with the proposal. The survey, by its very nature, attracted the voice of the individuals who are in disagreement with the proposal. If the small sample that responded, demonstrated a more evenly distributed opinion, then a larger sample would be required. The fact that in some schools/communities it was almost entirely skewed towards a negative opinion means that the survey was only of interest to that particular party. A larger sample would not provide a more "balanced view" because the nature of the survey itself.

According to Groves (2006, p. 664), "...positive or negative affect toward the sponsor of the survey may be related to the survey variables measured. *In at least some surveys, these influences on survey participation are correlated with the variables of interest in the survey*" (emphasis added).<sup>1</sup> The practitioner must decide whether this is likely to be the case and whether, therefore, differential effort should be assigned to the groups with low base propensities."

Thus, the those who responded had a high affective motivation for responding. Those that did not respond are likely (and we cannot say for certain in any circumstance) did not have an interest in the survey or the questions. You could extrapolate from this that the low and negative response rate reflected the population interest, and the majority of people were not interested the survey or the issue. Therefore, it may be the case that the non-respondents are at the least neutral, unaffected or detached from the issue (i.e., not against it).

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<sup>1</sup> Groves, R. M. (2006). Nonresponse rates and nonresponsive bias in household surveys. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 70(5), 646-675.

## Oakville South of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review (affecting St. Dominic, St. James and St. Joseph Schools)

### Themes Present in Online Community Feedback Form – by School

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Following the Community Consultation Meeting held Monday March 7, 2016 at St. Thomas Aquinas, current and future parents, students, staff members, and parish members impacted by the consolidation proposals were provided with an opportunity to submit their feedback about the proposed boundary reviews via HCDSB's online survey system. The online feedback collection form remained open for community feedback from Wednesday February 17, 2016 until Friday March 11, 2016. This report provides a summary of the online responses received for the Oakville South Pupil Accommodation Review and an analysis of themes observed in the responses received for the St. Dominic, St. James, and St. Joseph school communities.

### St. Dominic School

#### Online Feedback Form Responses

- A total of 58 feedback forms were received for the Oakville South Pupil Accommodation Review
- 23 of the Oakville feedback forms (39.7%) were received from St. Dominic School
  - All of the forms received (100%) were from current St. Dominic parents/guardians

#### **Question 1: What do you like best about the proposed plan?**

Two emerging themes were identified in this section. The majority of completed feedback forms (16 or 69.6%) included comments about what the parent liked best about the proposed plan. These comments can be found under point number one of the section below. This question in the remaining forms was either left blank, or parents stated that they did not like the plan (see point number two).

1. New School: The majority of the respondents stated that a new school will provide the benefits of 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning with an updated school with the most advanced technology, modern facilities and better programming.
2. Nothing: Several parents stated that they did not like anything about the new plan, or were unconcerned since they were not scheduled to be moved to a new school.

Example:

*“The renovation for St. Dominic school is definitely needed. After the heating and plumbing problems the school experienced this winter it is easy to see how the building's age is taking its toll. The proposed renovation will solve for the aging building, the serious vehicle traffic congestion at pick up and drop off, the*

*windowless classrooms and the lack of special program rooms required in a school with over 600 students.”*

**Question 2: What are the challenges you see with this plan?**

The same proportion of forms (16 or 69.6%) identified challenges that would result from the plan. There were three themes that emerged from these comments:

1. Transitions and Construction: Many respondents were worried that the construction of the new school would not be completed in time, further exacerbating transition. Many people also expressed concerns around the use of portables.
2. Reduced Quality of Education: Some respondents felt that the transition would displace too many students and staff during the renovations and construction phases, and that in general, there would be overcrowding by amalgamating the two sites. Respondents were also concerned about declining student to teacher ratios.
3. Several individual comments expressed concerns with bussing.

Example:

*“I think that some parents may be concerned with having the children travel to St James while St Dominic is being renovated but I truly believe that the short-term pain is for the long-term gain and this is a win win situation for the St Dominic community.”*

**Question 3: Do you have any suggestions to improve the proposed plan?**

Fewer parents (13 or 56.5%) provided suggestions to improve the plan. A few respondents chose to reiterate their concerns in this section, or simply stated that the plan should be abandoned.

There were a few individual suggestions that were constructive but could not be clustered with other responses, they are:

1. Update the parking area and revisit the drop/off and pick/up plans
2. Support the staff and students with the enhanced use of technology
3. Provide more information regarding transitional planning
4. Increase after-school activities and sports
5. Phase the construction work to reduce transitional stressors
6. Consider more schools for consolidation

Example:

*“Suggest also consolidating other schools - several schools in Oakville are very small. These decisions can benefit the entire hcdsb community.”*

## St. James School

### Online Feedback Form Responses

- A total of 58 feedback forms were received for the Oakville South Pupil Accommodation Review
- 6 of the Oakville feedback forms (10.3%) were received from St. James School
  - 5 out of 6 forms were from respondents who identified as current parents/guardians at St. James.
  - The remaining St. James respondent identified as a future St. James parent/guardian

### Question 1: What do you like best about the proposed plan?

This school only had a small number of responses. They are summarized below (not in themes):

1. Like the plan and the idea of getting a new school
2. Concerned with safety with transportation (bussing/walking)
3. Concern with the size of the classes, student-teacher ratio
4. Concerned the construction would not be done in time.

Example:

*“New updated facilities, with better outdoor facilities, art, music & science classrooms.”*

### Question 2: What are the challenges you see with this plan?

This school only had a small number of responses. They are summarized below (not in themes):

1. Concerns around amalgamation of uniforms
2. Quality of education – class sizes, and reductions in programs
3. Concerns with transportation – bussing
4. Stress of transition on students
5. School start-time changes.

Example:

*“1. Are the schools going to function separate under one roof - kids keeping uniforms/sports programs as is or are they joining forces - if so how does this affect uniforms, current programs in place etc? 2. Classroom sizes - are teachers currently employed by all the schools coming over or demands put on teachers at St James? 3. How many kids are there going to be at this school in total? Surely if I do the math this is a safety hazard? 4. The gym is small how do you propose to accommodate all the activities?”*

### Question 3: Do you have any suggestions to improve the proposed plan?

This school only had a small number of responses. They are summarized below (not in themes):

1. Stagger start-times for different schools
2. Increase the number of classes
3. Separate assemblies for each school
4. Build a dome for sports and activities
5. Survey parents regarding start-times and bussing schedules
6. Don't adopt this proposal

Example:

*“survey from the parents regarding school start time, and bus schedules”*

## St. Joseph School

### Online Feedback Form Responses

- A total of 58 feedback forms were received for the Oakville South Pupil Accommodation Review
- 27 of the Oakville feedback forms (46.6%) were received from St. Joseph School
  - All of the forms received (100%) were from current St. Joseph parents/guardians

### **Question 1: What do you like best about the proposed plan?**

Most respondents (21 or 77.8%) identified that they liked something about the plan.

1. New School: The vast majority of the respondents liked the idea that they were getting a new, updated school that was better suited for 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning, that would house a more diverse population of students.
2. Several individuals liked the plan but provided no reasons, and several more said they liked nothing about the proposal.

Example:

*“Proper facilities like a full size gym which will enhance sense of community at the school since currently the space cannot hold the entire school population.”*

### **Question 2: What are the challenges you see with this plan?**

Most St. Joseph parents (24 or 88.9%) responded that they identified challenges with the proposed plan. These comments have been clustered within the four themes below.

1. Reduced Quality of Education: Overwhelmingly, the largest theme emerging in the survey on this question was the issues related to concerns with the reduction in the quality of education. Respondents were worried that too many portables would be used, less green space, over-crowding, and the school would lose the ‘small school feel’. Several others wondered if French Immersion would be removed.
2. Transportation: Second largest theme involved transportation issues; bussing; parking, drop-off and pick-up routines, and students not being able to walk to school.

3. Construction and Transitions: Several comments involved worries about the construction not being done in time, that building timelines were unrealistic.
4. Other: Individual comments about challenges involved uniforms, merging parent volunteer groups, and the loss of the church beside St. James.

Example:

*“However, reading through the recommendations, it seems that at one point in time there will be a total of 14 portables at the St James location and I just don't see that this is a viable and safe option. The site at St. James is quite small and there is a public school just adjacent, with a very busy Rebecca road.”*

**Question 3: Do you have any suggestions to improve the proposed plan?**

Approximately half (15 or 55.5%) of parents provided suggestions for improve the proposed plan. There were a few suggestions that were constructive, they are:

1. Non-agreement, do not move forward with the plan, or rebuild/remodel the existing school, and others stated their agreement, no suggestions.
2. Be sure to honour the construction time-lines to minimize transitional stress on the community
3. Try not to rely on too many portables
4. Dedicate more time to the accommodation review process
5. Do not change uniforms

Example:

*“As mentioned, I do think the results of the plan will be very effective. I just hope that, throughout the project, all of the children's needs are kept at the forefront and not relegated behind the construction issues (such as timeline, cost, etc). This is my 14th year as a St. Joseph parent and my 3rd and final child is currently in gr. 5. The St. Joseph community is a wonderful group of children and families and we hope it will continue in the future.”*



Oakville South of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

| RESPONSE ID | WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT THE PROPOSED PLAN?                                                                                                                                                                   | WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES YOU SEE WITH THIS PLAN?                                                                                         | DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE THE PROPOSED PLAN?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 276523      | All of the schools need updating                                                                                                                                                                                 | My child will be in St Joseph when this happens - I guess over crowding ad bussing but I know it will be short term pain long term gain | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 261156      | The renovation of St Dominic is desperately needed. Portions of the school are old and the school is unable to offer the variety of programs needed for the community. It is a strong and well populated school. | None                                                                                                                                    | Renovation plan for St Dominic should include updated parking / drop off plan; current set-up is dangerous for the students. Any plan related to the schools noted should include a modernization of the programs offered (including enhanced use of tech)                                                                                                               |
| 261280      | I am not clear what the actual plan is at this point. The material provided is not clear so I am patiently awaiting the action plans and how it will affect us at home.                                          | space, quality of education, teacher/student ratio, bell times/scheduling, infrastructure, delays, location issues                      | I would suggest providing more information at this point for parents/teachers/educators etc. How it will affect our schedules/work shifts so we can make accommodations. I would like to know about after school care since more kids will be in need if St. James students will be joining the St. Dominic community. What will the new add-on include for St. Dominic? |
| 261467      | I do net see any positives with this proposed plan                                                                                                                                                               | I don't like the idea of having a larger school than St. Dominic already is.                                                            | Don't do it.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 261114      | Honestly...I wrote a ton of stuff here and your form timed out and deleted it all. Massively disappointed. I will need to find the time to rewrite this as it took me 45 minutes. ARGH!!!                        |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 261230      | I do not know the details of the St. Dominic School proposed Plan other than that the school will be under going construction.                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 261004      | St. Dominic will not be consolidated                                                                                                                                                                             | Growing concentration in Bronte, will there be enough quality school spaces                                                             | More after school activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 261192      | I love the idea of a renovation plan for St. Dominic school. An updated modern environment will led to happier student and staff community.                                                                      | Student and staff placement during the proposed renovations.                                                                            | The sooner the improvements begin the sooner the benefits will be seen. I think starting with St. Dominic school might provide more bang for ones buck. The school is larger and once the reno is completed it will be able to hold more students.                                                                                                                       |

Oakville South of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

|        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 265116 | It is exciting to see that a new school with much better facilities is being built in a wonderful, safe, quiet and accessible location.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 261105 | DIRECTLY BENEFITS OUR COMMUNITIES AND STUDENTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | HIGH COST OF PROPOSED PROJECT MIGHT JEOPARDISE ITS CHANCES OF APPROVAL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 261480 | I think the expansion of St. Doms is a terrific idea.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Just some inconvenience while under construction but well worth it.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 265554 | Modernize school through renovation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Impact and disruption that the renovation will have on students. Will portables be needed while classrooms are renovated?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Phased renovation plan that minimizes the negative impact to students.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 265015 | St.Dominic's is not going to be closed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | I don't want my child to be moved to a different school for renovations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | If necessary, renovations should occur over the summer only with as little inconvenience as possible to the students.                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 276444 | I'm excited that the students at St. Dominic will have a new and updated facility. It will improve the students learning environment and provide a nicer atmosphere. Currently, the heating and air conditioning is unreliable, the wireless internet doesn't always work making the technology useless and the washrooms/changerooms are outdated. Our gym is also too small when our school community gets together, so a new facility would allow for more events. | I think that some parents may be concerned with having the children travel to St James while St Dominic is being renovated but I truly believe that the short-term pain is for the long-term gain and this is a win win situation for the St Dominic community.                                                                                                       | It would be nice to have the same administration (Principal & Vice Principal, etc) during the transition. I think our school community (students, parents and staff) would benefit with having our current administration at the helm as we have a comfort level with them and support their vision for St Dominic. |
| 266197 | New academic facilities for students                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | The interim unsettling of students                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Clear and open communication with all stakeholders                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 261072 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | I am not in favor of this plan. There is new residential in the area of which our children are already taking the Bus to school from Lakeshore Woods. This neighborhood has many young families. In addition, the is a significant rebuilding trend in the area of Bronte which will also bring new families to the community. St Dominic is already using Portables. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 261019 | I don't like it. We need to keep the current schools open.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | In our neighbourhood we do not have a local School. All the children have to be bused to schools and now you want to limit schools in the area .                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Leave it as is.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

Oakville South of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

|        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 261433 | More efficient and cost effective use of Board resources through consolidation of schools means more money to direct to student programming.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Suggest also consolidating other schools - several schools in Oakville are very small. These decisions can benefit the entire hcdsb community.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 265559 | Renovation of st Dominic's                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Budget, school overcrowding                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Does someone look at the demographic to see replacement students coming in? Why close a school if more catholic families will be enrolling their kids in a catholic school.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 277315 | The renovation for St. Dominic school is definitely needed. After the heating and plumbing problems the school experienced this winter it is easy to see how the building's age is taking its toll. The proposed renovation will solve for the aging building, the serious vehicle traffic congestion at pick up and drop off, the windowless classrooms and the lack of special program rooms required in a school with over 600 students. | For this plan I see some minor inconvenience during the years that students are relocated while the schools are being rebuilt/renovated. I think the board has come up with an excellent plan to facilitate the work and the minor inconveniences will be well worth the improved end state for both communities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | The only suggestion I have to improve the proposed plan for Oakville South of QEW is to offer the extended French at St. Dominic to minimize loss of students to the public system e.g. transitions from FDK to Pine Grove for grade 1. While extended French would only provide French immersion in grade 5, it is a more attractive option for people than having to relocate your child to another school in grade 5 when social circles are already well established. |
| 261208 | I am in agreement in enlarging St. Dominic to lessen the impact of portables and accommodate more students within the school building.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | During this demolition at St. Dominic, will this affect the students during the school year?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | not at this time                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 261617 | renovations at St. Dominics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | renovations at St. Dominics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 290604 | I like that fact that school communities will remain together.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | disruptive to student routines                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | It does not make sense to me that the rebuild of St. Dominic school will be completed with the school ABOVE capacity. The enrollment has increased at this school and there are new communities in the area with a lot of children directed to that school. It makes no sense to build a school knowing that it can not accommodate the student population                                                                                                                |
| 261286 | I understand why, but best be thought out on 2 matters that are important to our family: 1. safety - size of classes and ratio to teachers for learning 2. activities - sports and other programs - are these going to change/stop? Solutions to these are my only priority.                                                                                                                                                                | 1. Are the schools going to function separate under one roof - kids keeping uniforms/sports programs as is or are they joining forces - if so how does this affect uniforms, current programs in place, etc? 2. Classroom sizes - are teaches currently employed by all the schools coming over or demands put on teachers at St James? 3. How many kids are there going to be at this school in total? Surely if I do the math this is a safety hazzard? 4. The gym is small how do you propose to accomodate all the activities? | 1. Bring all the teachers across from each school to ensure classes are not over loaded and affects kids ratio:teacher 2. Why dont you stagger start/finish times - seperate the jnr and snr kids so they have seperate assemblies. 3. Use of STA's gym after school perhaps if space allows there too? 4. On the field - it is large enough to fit a "dome" for sport and other outdoor activities .                                                                     |

Oakville South of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

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| 261265 | the prospect of a brand new school for our kids                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | joining St James and St Joe;s for the interim....how is that going to mesh for students, staff, and school council?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                 |
| 261249 | I do not agree                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | The effect it will have any the children.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Leave everything as is                                                                                                                          |
| 287707 | Renovations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | School starting times, bus schedules and uniform changes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | survey from the parents regarding school start time, and bus schedules                                                                          |
| 277553 | I believe merging the 2 schools is a great idea. It will provide the students with a more enriching elementary school experience. I feel with the declining numbers at st. James, it would be a matter of time before many of the extracurricular activities would not be offered any longer. I also feel a school of ~500 students is not too large, especially in comparison to many of the schools in north Oakville. I believe that the larger social network would benefit and help prepare children for high school. I feel a larger school will help reduce split classes. I have no issue with my kids being bussed and those who are complaining about not being within walking distance, I feel that this is a moot point as most drive in for pick and drop off. We are not moving our school to the other side of town. A few kilometers is not a big deal. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                 |
| 261295 | NOTHING                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Bussing is an issue inconvenience                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Keep the schools the way they are                                                                                                               |
| 261253 | new building for students                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | being transported to a different school for the holding year....bus rides, time changes etc.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                 |
| 264329 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Instability of kids adjusting to a new school and Moving back and forth -poor quality of education during the transition - poor amenities for the kids -poor coverage of teachers / support services for kids                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | -leave as is, I don't foresee a population trend that is informing this review as justified and in fact will only reverse as more time goes by. |
| 261064 | New facilities, better infrastructure, potential for more extra curriculum activities,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | The most significant challenge is the one year transition period. There is a clear difference between schools regarding the EQAO assessment results. What is the plan to close the academic gap between students of different schools? How will be the teacher/academic staff distribution? Which criteria for selection of ones teachers and not others, will be applied? There is a start time diference between schools, some starts ealier than other, what is the plan to mange that? | Keep on schedule the construction plan. Honor the due date commitment.                                                                          |

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| 261059 | Proper facilities like a full size gym which will enhance sense of community at the school since currently the space cannot hold the entire school population.                                                                                        | Will there be enough outdoor space for all the children. I am concern about the children from a small community school to a school with a much larger population.                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 261037 | New school. Bigger pool of children at new school. Hopefully more diverse population (more "English" stream students) which should help eliminate the "French" is better attitude that resonates at St. Joes. More resources to the "English" stream. | Timeline does not appear to be realistic unless your property section already has all of the necessary approvals in place. I foresee intense opposition from the adjacent landowners (esp those on Wood Place).                                                                                                             | Get all necessary planning approvals and only then discuss the timeline or move the students. I'd hate to see the St Joes property sit vacant and our students to be in a portable city while the bureaucracy of opposition stalls the project. I'm in support of the plan ... as long as everything is approved and ready to go before we move out of the existing site. |
| 276400 | We are glad to hear that St Joseph will be rebuilt.                                                                                                                                                                                                   | It might add to the travel time of parents who live closer to St.James, and potentially in the opposite direction of their work locations.                                                                                                                                                                                  | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 261082 | I like the fact that there will be a new school facility that will be built according to the latest standards and that there will be more flexibility in terms of space and programs for the children.                                                | However, reading through the recommendations, it seems that at one point in time there will be a total of 14 portables at the St James location and I just don't see that this is a viable and safe option. The site at St. James is quite small and there is a public school just adjacent, with a very busy Rebecca road. | Wondering whether it would be feasible to spread out the changes - or accommodate half of the pupils of St Joseph to go to St. James, the other half to St. Dominic. Once St Joseph is built - there should be enough room during the St. Dominic renovation project.                                                                                                     |

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| 261301 | None                                                                                                                               | <p>1. The biggest challenge is bussing to school. Kids in the community will no longer be able to walk or bike to school. The main reason we moved to this particular area was the close school proximity. When our school is no longer at the walking distance, everyone loses. It means no healthy exercise for children in the morning and afternoon, no possibility to use school grounds on the weekends, lack of feeling that you belong to the community, no opportunity to attend community events that happen at school. 2. The bigger is not always better. It would be a tremendous loss for our wonderful St. Joseph community. This is why people move to Oakville to have their kids attend those small, safe community schools as opposed to overcrowded schools in big cities. It is proven that smaller schools provide safer environment for happier kids. 3. St. Joseph's area is changing. When you read newspapers and observe what happens in the community, you would notice that many houses are being built in the area and new, young families are moving in. We need our school to accommodate all these kids in near future. 4. Changes should be our families well being driven and not cost cutting driven only. HCDSB should think about the safe, caring and healthy environment for our children first. Cost effectiveness should be secondary here. We all belong to an amazing community of St. Joseph School. Let's not destroy this.</p> | <p>St. Joseph School should remain in the community.</p>                                                                                                                           |
| 261185 |                                                                                                                                    | <p>St James School is beside the Church. This is the most wonderful feature of the school. For this reason, this school location should be maintained as an elementary school.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>St James School is beside the Church. This is the most wonderful feature of the school. For this reason, this school location should be maintained as an elementary school.</p> |
| 261049 | Nothing                                                                                                                            | <p>Too many students, prospect of having no French immersion</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 276750 | <p>It will be great for the kids to have a brand new school with updated technology. My kids are very excited to have lockers.</p> | <p>I'm concerned about how the kids will interact together. Will they play all together or continue to feel like St. James or St. Joseph students? I am most concerned about the start and end times of the school day. I like starting early and ending early but I know that St. James has different start and end times. Who will make the decision on the new school times?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>No, the plan looks great.</p>                                                                                                                                                   |

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|        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Regarding the uniforms. I'm assuming we'll need to buy new shirts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 261414 | <p>I do not like the plan - it has nothing to do with academic achievement or kids development; regular school upkeep and maintenance does not need to be sacrificed in the name of periodic tear downs and rebuild and aggregation of schools</p> <p>Comment 2: I hate this plan, it is ill conceived if the objective of the school board is to improve the students educational experience, which I believe it should be. The title speaks volumes -"Pupil Accommodation Review" makes it sound as though the students are cattle that need to be corralled. During construction children will be cramped into unhygienic classrooms, eating where they work, about an hour a day in wasted commute time for many. Afterwards 500+ children will be put into a school designed for 504 students leaving no room for extra students when your demographic models are proven wrong. Both schools are in mature areas where older residents are moving out and young families are moving in. Do things that will actually enhance childhood learning.</p> | <p>1. Unnecessary disruption during the construction period, where kids are bused around and jammed in sub-par and insufficient for their numbers facilities, with poor hygiene and cramped classrooms, washrooms and outside play space 2. Twice the number of kids attending a bigger school on the same size lot with reduced outside play space 3. Enhanced parking problems on Warminster and Wood Place for the increased number of students (it's already an intense experience and a problem for parents and residents alike) 4. Less kids being able to walk to and from school 5. Wasteful use of funds - instead of doing regular upkeep and modernization during holiday periods, that provides noticeable and meaningful value to kids throughout their education in the school, this is a one off radical tear down and rebuild that causes a disproportionate disruption for kids currently in the system 6. Population trends on which the proposal is based seem to conflict with the observable turnover in the area where young families with kids are moving in - if your projections are wrong the forest of portables so often observed in school yards will be a permanent fixture besides the new school 7. Lack of clarity on the rational of this proposal and what features made it the qualifying good choice among so many other possible alternatives</p> <p>Comment 2: 1. Unnecessary disruption during the construction period, where kids are bused around and jammed in sub-par and insufficient for their numbers facilities, with poor hygiene and cramped classrooms, washrooms and outside play space 2. Twice the number of kids attending a bigger school on the same size lot with reduced outside play space 3. Huge parking problems on Warminster and Wood Place for the increased number of students (it's already an intense experience and a problem for parents and residents alike) 4. Less kids being able</p> | <p>1. Do not reduce the number of schools 2. Invest in a modernization of the schools over the summer - add science and technology labs, lunch rooms, improve the gym and outside play spaces, renovate the washroom facilities, add washrooms for JK/SK classes 3. Perform regular maintenance and upkeep of all school facilities - enhance the kids experience and environment continuously and regularly, not infrequently but drastically for some 4. Prioritize administrative efforts and investment into initiative with meaningful academic impact as opposed to facilities churn, unnecessary busing around of kids, and pretend efficiency for space usage</p> <p>Comment 2: 1. Keep the same number of schools 2. Modernize the schools - add science and technology labs, lunch rooms are a must children cannot eat where they work, improve the gym and outside play spaces, renovate the washroom facilities, add washrooms for JK/SK classes 3. Perform regular maintenance and upkeep of all school facilities - enhance the kids experience and environment continuously and regularly, not infrequently but drastically for some 4. Prioritize administrative efforts and investment into initiative with meaningful academic impact as opposed to facilities churn, unnecessary busing around of kids, and pretend efficiency for space usage</p> |

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|  |  | <p>to walk to and from school 5. Wasteful use of funds - instead of doing regular upkeep and modernization during holiday periods, that provides noticeable and meaningful value to kids throughout their education in the school, this is a one off radical tear down and rebuild that causes a disproportionate disruption for kids currently in the system 6. Population trends on which the proposal is based seem to conflict with the observable turnover in the area where young families with kids are moving in - if your projections are wrong the forest of portables so often observed in school yards will be a permanent fixture besides the new school 7. Lack of clarity on the rational of this proposal and what features made it the qualifying good choice among so many other possible alternatives</p> |
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| 261469 | <p>Overall, I think the results of the plan are great. It will be wonderful to have a large, new school on the fabulous St. Joseph site.</p> | <p>I see two main challenges: 1) Logistics during construction - There really can be no question that having all of the St. Joseph and all of the St. James kids at St. James for the year of construction will be difficult. I assume all St. Joseph kids will be eligible for busing which will, hopefully, alleviate some of the anticipated congestion that drop off and pick up times will create. Additionally, even with portables, it is difficult to see how things like the gymnasium, the library, the computer room and other rooms that will not be doubled up can meet the curricular needs of an additional 380 students in the school. 2) The creation of a unified school - With the merging of the two schools, it is a distinct possibility that feelings of resentment and competition could result in divisiveness between the two schools. I believe that St. James and St. Joseph should be merged into one school immediately upon the commencement of this project (ie. during the construction year). To this end, I believe we should have one principal, one set of school teams, one school community committee for things such as parent volunteering and fundraising, all in place at the beginning of the construction year. Additionally, I am hopeful that the St. Joseph children will not be treated as outsiders or visitors during the construction year (ie. will not be in the portables while the St. James children remain in classrooms) and that the classes will be mixed from the beginning. Further, I would love to see the continuity of leadership from the principal (Anthony Cacciola) at St. Joseph be carried on during the construction year and at the new St. Joseph.</p> | <p>As mentioned, I do think the results of the plan will be very effective. I just hope that, throughout the project, all of the children's needs are kept at the forefront and not relegated behind the construction issues (such as timeline, cost, etc). This is my xxx year as a St. Joseph parent and my xxx and final child is currently in gr. xxx. The St. Joseph community is a wonderful group of children and families and we hope it will continue in the future.</p> |
| 261365 | <p>New school with better amenities for children and staff, more programs for our children, proper size gym.</p>                             | <p>Larger school with larger class size. Lost of our family and closed community feeling.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 277306 |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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| 261028 | A clean new building with state of the art technology                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | The merge, size of school and #'s predicted. Really like the small community feel and the new school will be huge with portables, predicting a decline in enrolment when all new families are moving in the area worries me.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 277311 | I like that there will be a local Catholic school in our community that does not require bussing for local students. We live in a neighbourhood that is seeing continued growth in new housing replacing original housing and many new families are moving into the neighbourhood.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | A parent at our school, Lori Gillham, died in 2012. Her son is currently in Grade 8 at the school. After her death, the school community built an outdoor learning area with a memorial stone in the garden for Lori. It is our hope that this garden/outdoor learning area (or something similar) can continue to exist with the new plans. Lori was a dedicated parent who volunteered a great deal at the school. She requested that donations be made to St. Joseph School upon her death. It would be heartbreaking and a disservice if this area of the school ceased to exist in its entirety. Perhaps it could be relocated elsewhere in the yard when rebuilding occurs.                                                      | None at this time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 276543 | I really like the whole plan. I have xxx kids that are going to St Joseph's school and another one that will start school in September 20xx. It is such a good idea to have a 21-st century school. I hope this plan will go through.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | I don't see any challenge with it, they are already challenges with the current school where most of the kids are in the portables anyways except maybe driving them to St James.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | No. It looks a really good plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 276480 | That there will be a newer and more up to date school, however the question should also be asked, " What do you not like about the proposed plan for Oakville South of QEW (affecting St. Joseph, St. James, and St. Dominic schools)" By only asking " What do you like best about the proposed plan for Oakville South of QEW (affecting St. Joseph, St. James, and St. Dominic schools) " , simply questions and frames only the positive picture and opinions of all affected community members' and Parent or Guardians. It does not allow the disadvantages and negative affects to be surfaced, expressed and brought to everyone's attention. | That proper staffing might not be sufficiently provided in order to manage the increased number of students and insure that the appropriate level of education is available to all students. Traffic problems that might arise due to larger concentrations of students and commuter vehicles in one particular area, as opposed to a more spread out student density and better dynamic equilibrium and flow to the overall traffic pattern in the area, with particular regards to South Oakville. Longer and more congested commute times. Lack of diversification in the experiences of all students and a student life experience that is too homogenous, resulting from a lack of cultural, geographic and population diversity. | Place the importance of the community, the students , student life and the student experience first and insure that the highest level of Christian values in education is considered, planned for and provided over and above any other motives for change. |

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| 261099 | I like that the board takes initiative on re-building these old schools as they really needed an update.                                             | For the time during any construction will be challenging to adjust to new school. Most of the kids and staff have used to their schools.                                                                                                                                                                         | To try to be as seamless as possible.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 266149 | New facilitaties for the children. The current location is very outdated and often does not allow them to participate in a full range of activities. | Keeping the scheduled changes on track and on time so it minimizes the disruption to the pupils. Adjusting to a larger school for students, teachers, administrators and parents. Keeping the bus ride a reasonable length for the students - right now, our daughter already spends over 40 minutes on the bus. | St. Joseph already does not have very much outdoor space for the children, especially when they are not allowed on the field (which has been the case for some time now with the weather). As the number of pupils grows with the merger of St James, there will be even less room. Please try to eliminate the need for portables at all from the outset so that there is a more space to accommodate the students outdoors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 276446 | New facility                                                                                                                                         | Students suffering from lack of washrooms, gym time and also French immersion program offered at st. Josephs for current students.                                                                                                                                                                               | I feel like far more time to review best possible ways for all schools to consolidate so children are not losing out of any opportunities and parents have a chance to make any necessary changes etc                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 276609 | Opportunity for a more modern school with additional educational resources                                                                           | Primary challenges will come from St James families who do not want their children to require bussing and want to keep school local to their community                                                                                                                                                           | The plan appears to be well thought out. I am doubtful of timelines, and would like assurances that plans are in place to ensure they are met. I question the need for portables (appears to be 12 for St Joe's) in a brand new school that has been specifically designed for future population. I would encourage the board to revisit the design to look for an opportunity to bring the entire population into the newly designed, modern facility, rather than having some students in old portables. My son has been in a portable and his backpack is always about 40 lbs because he has to haul all his stuff with him in the absence of a "permanent" place to leave it. |

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| 261421 | <p>New facility. My children's transportation will remain unchanged.</p> <p>Comment 2: New facility with more modern amenities.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>Transition planning will be very important</p> <p>Comment 2: Overcrowding of too many children during the construction process. How will St. James be able to handle the influx of students with their infrastructure I.e. washrooms, gymnasium and yard space. What is person/washroom ratio? How will phys-Ed be a regular part of the curriculum with so many students and one gym. Pick up and drop off would also be a major concern in terms of traffic congestion. Could a empty facility be utilized instead (St. Anne's or a similar location. The loss of the small community feel at St. Joseph which is what drew us to the area and school. What will be the staffing situation? Will the St. Joseph staff all remain employed with this school?</p> | <p>The current parking lot at STJ is undersized, in adequate and a safety concern to me. This will be very important to address with the new school design</p> <p>Comment 2: Different location to house St. Joseph students during the construction phase.</p> |
| 261472 | <p>What I like best is a newly built school will give all the children in our community the same opportunities and advantage as those that live in newer communities. I believe that bringing the two schools together gives our children better resources and better learning environment.</p>                                                                          | <p>The challenge with this plan is that these two communities have been around a long time and people are emotionally attached. I have heard worries that their identity will be lost. I feel that our community is more than just a location. Our community is that of Catholic parents involved in our children's education. This change will benefit the community as a whole for the next four decades or more. Once we are one group under a new school name the community will prosper.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>none</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 261098 | <p>I like the idea of kids kids being in a brand new clean school. The lighting will be better, they will actually have sinks in the bathrooms that have enough water coming out so they can properly wash their hands. I like the idea of the kids being offered more extra curricular activities and sports because the school is bigger and can accommodate more.</p> | <p>In the transition time, not sure if I am thrilled about the kids being shoved into portables at St. James.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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| 277478 | The kids getting a newer school with more program offerings                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>Changing schools for the 1 year of construction -- a big change for my kids - could be quite stressfull (new surroudnings, new friends etc) and different pick up drop off for parents.</p> <p>Uniforms: Do we have to obtain new shirts saying St. James on them... OR as long as they are in a uniform... doesn't matter the logo? Is the Grade 5 Extended French program still going to run?? But just be at St. James now. How will I know if my kids qualify for the Bus? When the St. Joseph's students go to St. james... will the classrooms be integrated with St. James and St. Joseph's students or will it be all ST. James in a class / all st. Josephs.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Definitely make the uniform logo not mandatory. Maybe have an opportunity for the students and parents from ST. Joseph's to tour ST. James... before school Sept 2016 -- so they will be more comfortable with their surroundings. Make sure that lots of clear communication is given to parents well in advance of all the changes</p> |
| 261247 | <p>Finally rebuilding the old Vanier part of the building.</p> <p>Comment 2: Fixing the old buildings so that the students have the best education. That they are not trying to split one of the schools in half to accomplish the end goal.</p> | <p>It will affect St. Joseph and St. James far more than St. Dominic since the student population at St. Dominic will stay the same, they'll just get a new building.</p> <p>Comment 2: That some walkers will be bused and this will upset some parents.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>Comment 2: Would making 3rd line a boundary between St. Dominic and the new combined school make sense? Then students would not be crossing an increasingly busy road.</p>                                                                                                                                                               |
| 277370 | Nothing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>Loss of unique community of St. James School St. James students no longer closely aligned with St. James church when moved to St. Josephs Does "one hour on the bus" mean one hour total per day or one hour maximum morning and afternoon? If the latter, that is way too much time for any children to spend on a bus being transported to school. Even one hour a day on the bus is too much time in relation to the length of the school day. Insufficient parking already at St. Dominic school. Increasing capacity of school will make parking/drop off/pick up situation even worse unless more parking is built and there really isn't room for more parking. School parents already park illegally and cause all kinds of problems for St. Dominic's church events during school drop off and pick up times. Increased student numbers and increased busses will only make the situation worse. St. Dominic's parish currently pays to prepare St. Dominic's and St. Joseph's students for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. The increased student populations will put a further burden on the parish without any real prospect of</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

Oakville South of QEW – Pupil Accommodation Review Feedback Form Comments Received

financial compensation. Few St. Joseph's students currently attend St. Dominic's. Those students living closer to St. James Church with parents attending mass regularly will probably not change churches just because their school boundary has changed. Students who attend school masses in a gym or other hall lose the real benefit of worshipping in their home church.



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Oakville South Central School Project**

# **APPENDIX D**

# Transcribed Comments

## Community Consultation Meeting

Oakville South QEW Modified Pupil Accommodation Review

Monday, March 7, 2016

✓ = Additional community member in agreement with comment

### QUESTION #1

*What do you like best about the proposed plan?*

- State of the art building
- Organized and well thought out
- Eliminate split grades whenever possible
- Better technology
  - Science Lab
  - Music Room
  - Art Room
- More opportunities
- Natural Lighting
- Naturalized playground
- Childcare
- New Buildings/facilities
- Bigger/Safer parking lot
- More staff to accommodate student needs
- More extra-curricular
- Fiscal responsibility
- Natural setting/light
- Modernization
- Technology
- Less split grades
- More students within the school community
- St. Joe's English stream supported with more students
- Taking advantage of the opportunity to use Ministry money
- Brand new facility/modernization
- Draws in new teachers/residents
- Lockers
- Gym size
- Childcare Facility
- Extracurricular opportunities (more teachers to assist in coaching)
- Flow of pick-up/drop-off kiss'n'ride
- Combining St. James and St. Joseph (and not St. Dominic)
- Using the St. Joseph site
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning
- Fewer/no split classes
- Staff
- Elimination of split classes
- Elimination of cramped classrooms
- New clean building with up-to-date resources and technology



- More staff
- 2 Teachers per grade
- Safety related to building materials (ie. lead, asbestos)
- Student pride in new building (ie. St. Thomas)
- New building/state-of-the-art
- Options for more friends/groups
- Overall, the proposal is very well received. We look forward to a new building and new community.
- New facilities
- Computer lab, gym, lighting
- Like the child care facility at St. Dominic
- Like the idea
- Improvement in split classrooms
- More extra-curricular activities
- Like the consolidation instead of relocating and moving students out
- Consolidation allows for an improved transportation system
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Facility
- Extra-curricular potential
- New library, music room, specialized classrooms
- No split classes
- New facility
- Positive social dynamic – larger circle of friends
- More extra-curriculars and programs
- More student participation
- Staff P.D. (more same grade teachers)
- Dual gym
- New space
- Modern facility
- Natural light
- Optimal size and the extra things you get with a school that size
- Keeping everyone aligned with St. Thomas
- Keeping schools together
- Home parish relation kept
- Teachers moving with the kids
- Possibility of state-of-the-art school for kids
- Solves the pupil accommodation issue at St. James
- Like critical mass
- Better staff
- New school would be great. We are all St. Dominic parents
- Dedicated music rooms; science classes are a big bonus
- New facility
- Is St. Ann's a consideration for the new school site
- Is a full pupil accommodation review process possible? This would give our community more time to decide.
- How do they determine who the teachers/staff are?
- Which parish would the new school be aligned with?
- How will extended French be accommodated?
- What other options has the Board considered? For example – reinvesting in current schools with renos and upgrades
- What will uniforms be? St. Joes and St. James, or one uniform?
- What do we not know?

- Will the programs continue ie. F.I.?
- Would school start times change?

## QUESTION #2

### *What are the challenges you see with this plan?*

- Commuting kids when originally bought homes near school to cut this issue
- Bussing doesn't support the walking initiative for an environmental promotion
- Challenge of parking lot at proposed new St. Joseph in wrong position because walkway crosses parking lot
- Too many kids in playground
- Not enough green space
- Where is data coming from? Don't see it in reality
- Feels turn over homes will happen quicker and too many kids will be moving in
- Parents need to know far in advance what time St. Dominic will start in the a.m. during the transition year to coordinate with work schedules/daycare arrangements
- The sooner parents know all info the better
- What about parents whose children are making First Communion? Will meetings and sacrament take place at St. Dominic Church or St. James Church?
- Transportation
- Start/end times
- Transition year – what will that look like?
- Scheduling (transition year)
- Transition – not mid-year. Use natural breaks in year.
- Taking school away from church
- Home/school/parish connection
- St. James site design ignores the Diocese property, green space and shared parking (4 acres more)
- St. Dominic scope of work not related to pupil accommodation pressures
- Only one single option presented as a solution
- Lose the intimacy of a small school when going to 500+ pupil places
- Transportation during transition
- Will additional education be provided to the teachers to teach 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching with the new facilities
- Less green space for play
- Integrating the 2 communities
- St. James students having a longer day due to travel
- Will there be funding to support the new classrooms (ie. music, art science)
- Affect school schedule
- After school programs during transition
- Disruption of students during transition
- With all the glass, does it affect security?
- Ensure no staff are let go through consolidation process
- Elementary/Secondary student interactions improved by being walkable distance
- Increased transportation/bussing
- Potential loss of students from Catholic Board to public elementary board
- Concern with transition and impact on students
- No communication re: portables
- Would like more details on transition that directly affect students
- Parking at St. James
- How will 2 schools function in one building? Are they considered separate?
- What will be the start/end times?
- What construction be done?

- What construction be done?
- Daughter is in grade 8 during transition year
- Consolidating St. James and St. Joseph – logistical challenge.
- Washroom facilities
- Pay now, pay later – wish there was a less painful way of having a new school
- Where are the numbers declining – where are these numbers coming from?
- Question about research – where does this data come from?
- What's going to happen to the French immersion? Don't want French immersion to be affected by the consolidation
- Study about small schools and students going to bigger schools
- Board sent out survey that students have higher levels of anxiety and how this will be affected through consolidation process
- Short consultation period
- Larger classes
- More students
- Lost identity
- Close to home, to school
- Drive/bus issue
- Timelines are tight
- Portables added in transition years
- Portables in new facilities will remain based on projections
- Start times (St. James vs. St. Joes) current – transition year – new facility times
- YMCA programs (St. Joes)? Where do they go?
- What happens to the teachers?
- Traditions lost
- New uniforms – cost
- Parish boundaries
- Loss of greenspace to new St. Joes site
- St. James walkers to be bussed
- Old vs. new portables
- Portables at St. Dominic?
- Are the projected student numbers accurate?
- How would we combine St. Joes and St. James students during the transition year?
- Transition
- Real estate market
- What is number source
- Methodology used for data (Gr 1 – 8)?
- How to maintain school, parish/home connection
- Portables (become permanent and rezoning becomes a problem)
- French Immersion #'s
- Question enrolment sources and projections which are huge impact on plans
- Loss of small community
- What happens to the teachers and administration
- Multi-year transition likely given historical building delays (material, labour, weather)
- What happens with uniforms?
- Facilities (bathrooms, gym etc.) limited over transition
- Transportation challenges (busses, inclement weather)
- Is funding approved multi-stage or entire project?
- Does French immersion collapse

- Loss of sports fields per plans
- Are children split by grade so that a family could be split between schools
- Child care centres – why are these being put in?
- Concern about flooding at St. Joes
- Why building a small school projection sees more students? We see 800 students.
- Parking lots are not naturalized spaces ✓✓✓
- Traffic concerns on Wood Place for drop off & pick up ✓✓
- Closing school beside church
- Lose St. James students to public school
- Growth in St. Joe mimicking Bronte growth; therefore, projection of growth not valid as presented tonight
- In older neighbourhoods, old bungalows are torn down to make large family home
- Why is this proposal better than renovating the two schools?
- Will boundary change re: STA because more kids in elementary school?
- Park lot safety a great concern
- Parking should be in front or north side for safety & b/c of walkway area
- Demographics are changing; everybody loves south Oakville; will the numbers not go up?
- Walkability of the neighbourhood changes. St. James students must be bussed.
- Further away from St. James Church. What will become of the school-parish relationship? Will parish enrollment go down?
- Has amalgamation of two schools worked well in the past? Are there examples?
- Town approval
- Will infrastructure accommodate traffic?
- How do the neighbours feel?
- Construction timelines – will kids have to move mid-year?
- Will after school care be available at St. Dominic when it moves to St. James?
- Will busing be available for all St. Dominic kids?
- What time would school start for St. Dominic kids when going to St. James?
- Does St. James have a special education room facility?
- Will all the “extra” rooms currently in St. Dominic be replicated at St. James?
- Will the St. James’s & St. Joseph’s classrooms be merged during the year at St. James?

## QUESTION #3

### *Do you have any suggestions to improve this plan?*

- Staffing needs to be consistent
- Parents on transition committee
- Virtual link of St. James School
- Community builders – St. Joes and St. James
- Involve church Pastors to become more involved in the integration process/meaningful partners in this transition
- More transparency around data (how/where #s are coming from)
- Do these suggestions matter?
- If Ministry deadline is May, can you pivot decision?
- Can we prepare an orientation for students/parents?
- Re-evaluate size of school to reduce portables
- Possible to: build bigger schools to avoid portables?
- Revisit timelines (seems tight)
- Stagger start times in transition year – St. Joe’s/St. James different start times at the one site?
- Does St. Joe’s site need all the proposed blacktop space? Loss of greenspace on site.
- Existing Peace Gardens & other current school outdoor landmarks

- YMCA programs & their locations?
- Consider other sites for YMCA Before & After School – church
- Ideas for suggestions
- Can we do porta Pac vs. portables at St. Dominic?
- Renovate two existing schools (this would save on bussing)
- Consult University of Waterloo's study on large school consolidation & effects on kids (negative effect!)
- Better organized bussing.
- Inclusion/promotion of learning leading into trades
- Security?
- Buy more land
- Need a new child care centre at the new south Oakville school
- Consolidate French immersion school programs into 1 so that children aren't relocated out of the area
- More time/more community consultation
- Follow up with the right people in person
- Open end meeting
- Universal emblem for the uniform – moving from school to school
- New school – want a discount on the new uniform (not pay full price)
- Having a Town Hall Meeting to hear answers to the questions
- Seeing what other people had to say
- Any suggestions would be based on transition plans
- More details on the curriculum (ie. expanded programs – will it be better for the students)
- Communication – more transparent
- What are new concepts & design
- Pursue purchase of St. James church property so the uncertainty of the land use goes away
- Modify site plans to be more clear about the access students have to green space and parking on church property (land use on diagram)
- Reiterate lens of home/school/parish connection in development of recommended option
- More options than 1
- Simplify process by removing St. Dominic from discussion – renewal envelope
- Should only be a two school discussion
- Use funds available prudently – don't just use because available
- St. James plus addition/reno might be enough space to accommodate St. Joe kids
- Could the St. Dominic project be done faster if it was a total rebuild?
- Could a modernization be done at St. Dominic vs. a rebuild? To reduce the amount of time and cost it would take.
- Increase before & after school programs space
- Delay school start time, but still provide supervision earlier (ie. start 8:30 a.m. but provide supervision from 8:00 a.m. by an outside agency/volunteers/pd. Supervision
- New/modern portables



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Oakville South Central School Project**

# **APPENDIX E**

## Parking Lot Questions

Community Consultation Meeting for Oakville South Central QEW  
March 7, 2016

### QUESTION(S):

- Why are the additional 4 acres (/) of property at the St. James School site not considered at all? (this space has always been used by the school – parking & green space behind) & has the school board approached the Chancery to purchase said property to remove any future concern over access?

### ANSWER:

There is the ability to approach the Diocese of Hamilton in order to purchase the property at St. James and purchase the greenspace. However, there would still be challenges in providing unrestricted access to the St. James School site.

When staff reviews potential site options, it is not solely a matter of the available space on site. Many factors are taken into consideration before selecting potential site options. Staff reviews the following:

- 1) **A central location of the site in relation to where students live** – in this area, St. Joseph School currently offers the Grade 5 Extended French Immersion Program which is the designated French Immersion Program for the St. Joseph student population and for its feeder schools (St. Dominic School, and St. James). Having a central location for this Program is essential.
- 2) **Transportation times and average distance to school** – a central location for students would reduce overall transportation times and the average distance to school.
- 3) **Adjacent uses** – for the proposed Oakville South Central School and the proposed St. Dominic School re-build, both sites are within residential neighborhoods.
- 4) **Other site limitation** – overall, the St. Joseph School site has fewer restrictions when compared to the St. James site.

### QUESTION:

- The parking area proposed for St. Joseph is under water every spring – will the board post a bond against flood damage to neighbor houses? My sump pump runs 11 months a year.

### ANSWER:

Our staff has been unaware of unwanted pooling of water near the proposed parking area of the Oakville South Central School. If this proposal is approved by the Board of Trustees and funded by the Ministry of Education, the school concept would need to undergo a Site Plan approval process, where the Town of Oakville would require that a Site Servicing and Grading Plan be provided. This would ensure that the overall design of the proposed plan avoids unwanted pooling of water to occur.

**QUESTION(S):**

- Where are these numbers coming from – source? Where is this data coming from?
- More clarification on projected declining enrollment – this is not happening – how do you forecast the decline?
- Can “consolidation funding” be re-appropriated for renovation projects?

**ANSWER:**

To generate the enrolment projections of existing communities, we refer to October 31<sup>st</sup> enrolment headcounts of the past 5 years (2011-2015) as a base to develop 15-year enrolment projections. Using 2-5 years of past enrolment trends and retention rates, combined with current October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 headcounts, the progression of students (from grade to grade) is calculated.

We also use filed and active development applications (subdivision, site plan, and condominiums) to estimate the number of new students who would come from new development units (i.e. a house). The majority of new residential developments in Oakville South Central QEW are condominiums, which based on research, show a very low student yield. Single family homes present the greatest student yield per household, however, the value of homes in South Oakville provide a challenge for younger families to afford in the area.

As for Junior Kindergarten (FDK) enrolments, we have reviewed past birth rate trends, as well as Census information from 2001, 2006, and 2011 to monitor the number of school-aged children within each community. We have also reviewed historical participation rates of students enrolling in Catholic schools vs. Public schools.

All the projections supplied as part of this review process have been peer reviewed by a third party consultant, which has confirmed declining enrolment projected for the Oakville South Central QEW area.

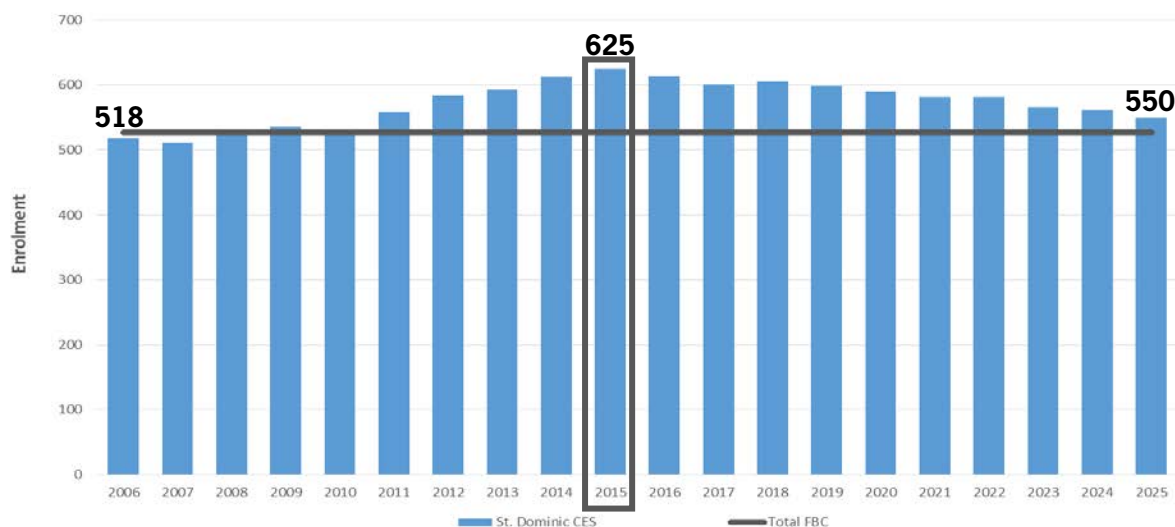
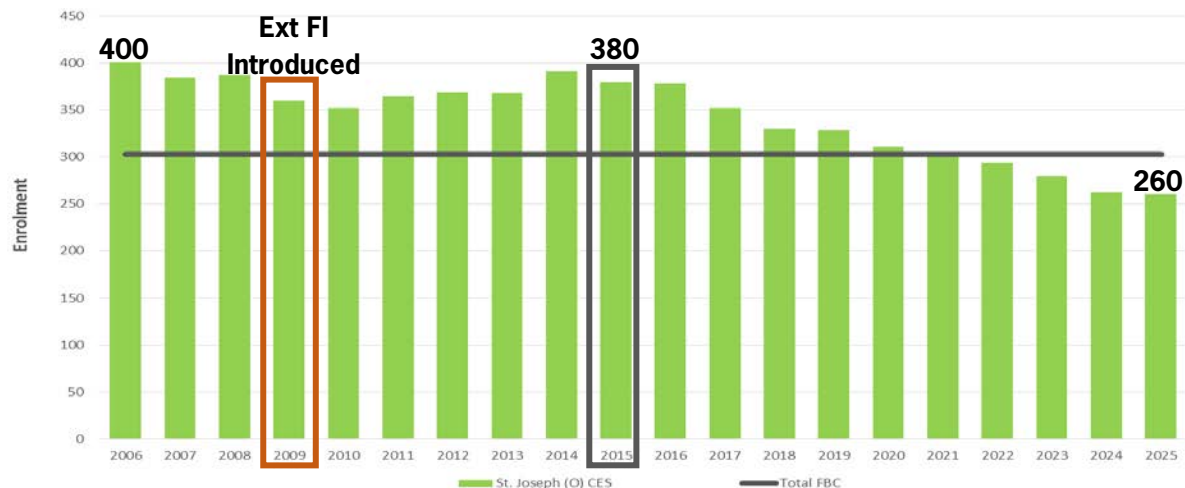
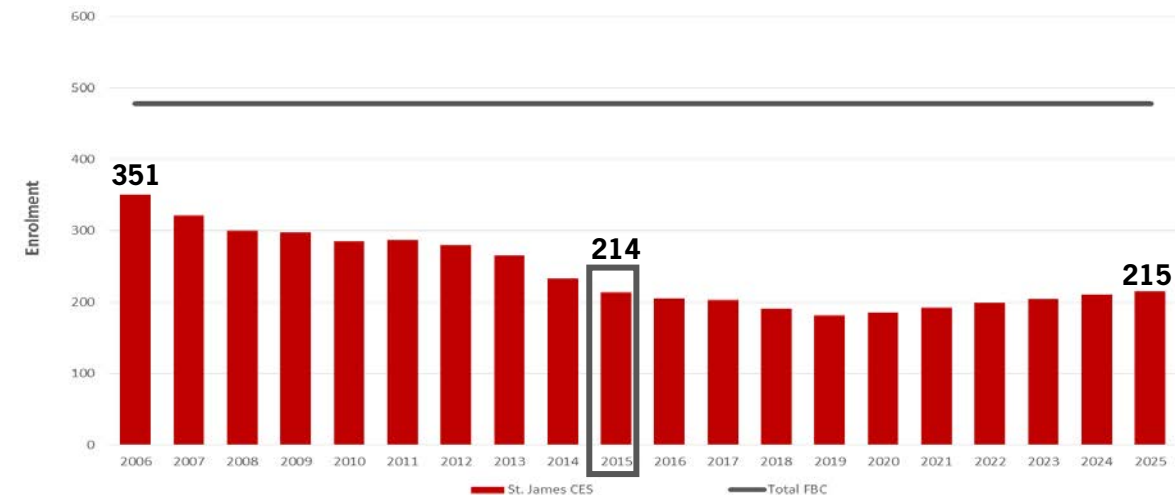
The current 15 year enrolment projection for St. James School includes 50 students (at its peak) that may come from new development, where student enrolment at the school will still remain at approximately 200, below 50% utilization. Based on projections, St. Joseph School may only receive approximately 7-10 students from new developments, but will maintain a good enrolment level of 250. St. Dominic School is not seeing significant declines, and is approaching sustainable enrolments.

Neighbourhood regeneration has been a topic that a number of Boards in the province of Ontario have been researching for many years. Research shows that the regeneration of student enrolment does not happen at the same level as it would be seen in a new development area. The current projections use this knowledge, which shows a lack of increase in student enrolment.

We have also witnessed that when families move in to established neighbourhoods, the range of school-aged students that enter the neighbourhood would mainly be attending secondary school.



The charts below show individual school enrolment (from 2006 to 2015) and the projected 10 year enrolment (from 2016 to 2025).



**QUESTION:**

- Can “consolidation funding” be re-appropriated for renovation projects?

**ANSWER:**

The only instance where School Consolidation Capital funding can be re-appropriated to a renovation project is if a consolidation of schools were to occur. Given the age of the school facilities in this review area, we believe that investing in a new school building presents greater advantages, and avoids future renewal costs to maintain important components of the facility (i.e. the boiler, the roof, etc.).

**QUESTION(S):**

- What incentives are the trustees receiving if they are “successful” at pushing through a consolidation project?

**ANSWER:**

There are no incentives. Trustees are given the responsibility in deciding the most appropriate pupil accommodation arrangements for the delivery of elementary and secondary programs. At times, to address changing student populations, the Board of Trustees must consider undertaking pupil accommodation reviews that may lead to school consolidations and/or closures.

**QUESTION:**

- Will before/after school care spaces be increased at the new sites/holding sites to accommodate increased student numbers?

**ANSWER:**

If the Board of Trustees approves the proposal, and the proposal is funded by the Ministry of Education, staff would ensure that the operator at the holding facility will be informed of the 1 year increase in student numbers. This would be taken care of to ensure enough space is provided for all children that require Before and After School Care.

**QUESTION:**

- ??safety/security issues with all the glass/windows in the new proposed facilities?

**ANSWER:**

HCDSB staff takes every precaution that all materials used in schools are safe for our students. Many of our new school facilities use glass to allow for natural light to shine through. We have not had any issues with the amount of glass or windows built in our new school facilities.

**QUESTION:**

- Will the Before & After school programs be offered at the new schools?
- What will be done to accommodate students during transition period for washroom facilities?
- What's going to happen to French Immersion? Will it still be offered?
- How will education be improved i.e. expanded curriculum, just because facility changes?
- Will there be increased access to French immersion?
- Will St. Dom's & St. Joe's start/end time be the same when being housed at St. James

**ANSWER:**

In the proposed plan, it is anticipated that all current services and programming will be provided at the new school location – everything comes together. Before and After school programs will be offered at the new school, and accommodations will be made for the additional increase in students.

As for school programs, the Grade 5 Extended French Immersion Program will continue to be offered at the new school (at the transition school as well), and will be better equipped to provide the 2 classroom maximum space for the Extended French Immersion program, as space is available.

With a larger facility, more staff, and a larger number of students at one location, it becomes more feasible to expand curriculum offered at the school. Expanding curriculum offered in smaller schools is much more difficult and sometimes unfeasible.

School start times will be reviewed once approvals have been granted.

**QUESTION:**

- Board sent out survey – Me to We – students having higher levels of anxiety – how will this be affected through consolidation?

**ANSWER:**

We have a number of Special Education Services and Programs available at HCDSB for individual student needs. Staff would ensure that accommodations are made for students who have special needs or are in need of additional support. School staff such as School Social Workers and Child Youth Counselors, would be available in the proposed new schools, as they would be in all of our schools, should students experience feelings of uneasiness and anxiety.



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Interim Staff Report Oakville South Central School Project**

# **APPENDIX F**

Halton Roman Catholic District School Board Meeting January 19, 2016

Anthony Danko Trustee

As a Pastor of St. James Parish, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to express some concerns about the closing of St. James School.

Over the past few years, discussions have come up regarding the closing of St. James School or St. Joseph School. Catholic logic for me would have been to close a school not in proximity to a catholic church. Realigning the boundaries would have made sense depending on the number of students available. Looking at structure of the buildings, I was told that St. Joseph school needed a lot of upgrading. Since St. James School has already been renovated, why not send the students to this school?

St. Andrew Parish and St. James Parish collaborated on the building of the Gym and surrounding rooms to accommodate the school activities as well as the Parish. The school board made some arrangement to take over the separate building to incorporate it with the school. The Provincial Government then claimed all schools under their direction and in so doing, the parish and the community lost its use, unless we paid for it.

At the present time, we have an understanding as to use of the property, whereas the school uses the lawn area for the children's play area, and the staff and the parents use the parking area on weekdays. In return, the school board looks after the lawn care and the clearing of the snow in the winter. If the school board wants to use the parish parking area, are they aware that we do have a number of funerals that need extra space?

We have been surveying the parish for their ideas for a hall to accommodate activities for the parish and were looking at building a new hall for over \$1.3 million dollars. This we could not afford. Another idea came to renovate the rectory basement at \$\$ dollars. That would limit our activities and number of people attending.

A proposal I would like to make is that we could make arrangements to lease the back section of the school that would take in the Gym, the three classrooms (kindergarten classrooms) the ESL room the computer room and the Gym storage room. A fence or gate could be set up at the end of the hall by the "Quiet room" and access could be by the Custodians room or the back door.

I am also aware that if St. James School is closed, there will be many students who will go to Morden Public School.

I pray that the parents of our students will have an opportunity to voice their opinions in the near future and St. James School will produce a new generation of educated citizens in Oakville.

Fr. Louis M. Lenssen

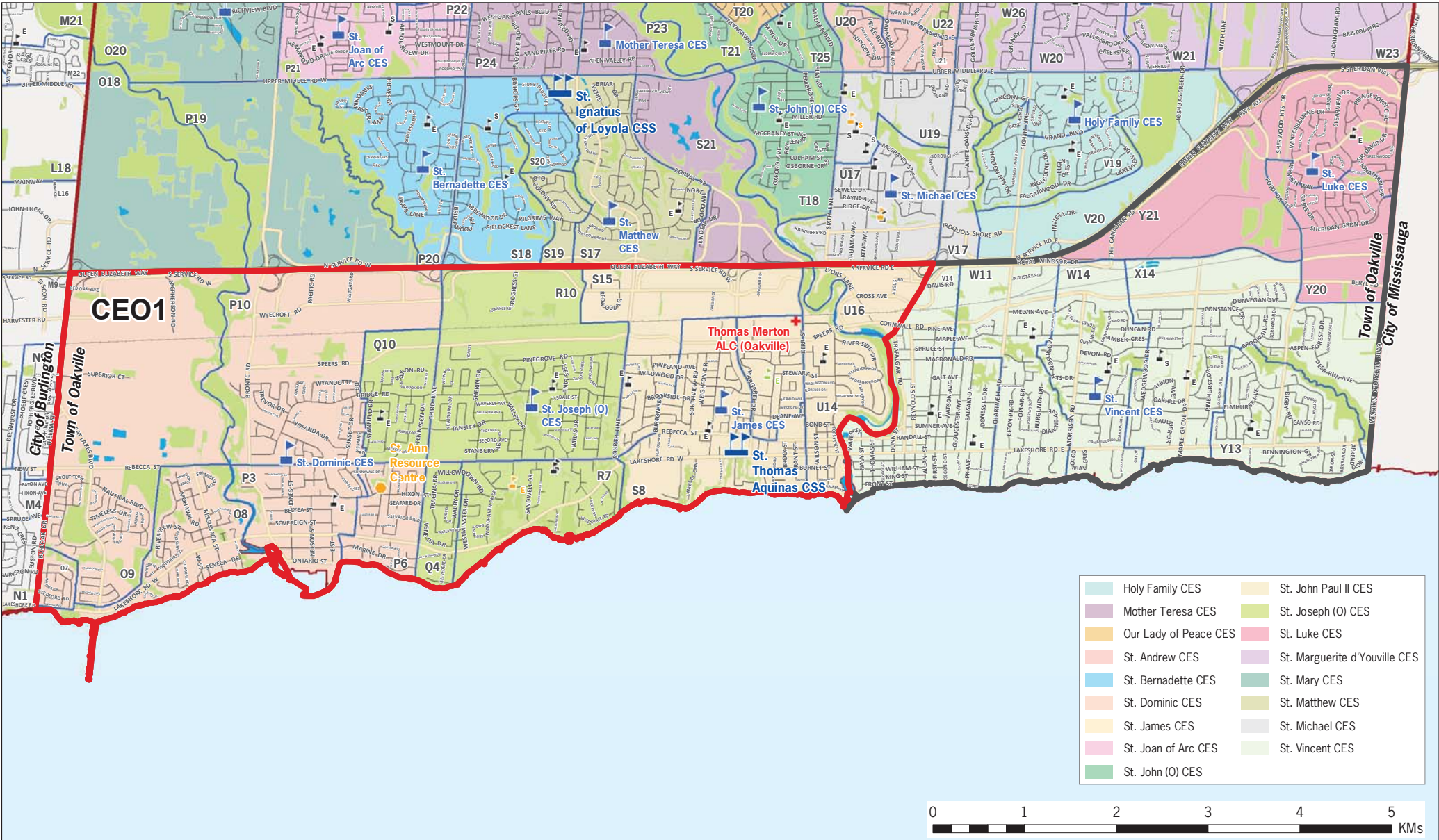
Pastor of St. James Parish



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
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# **APPENDIX G**



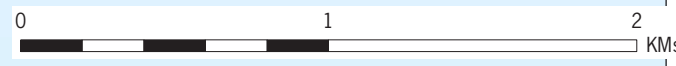
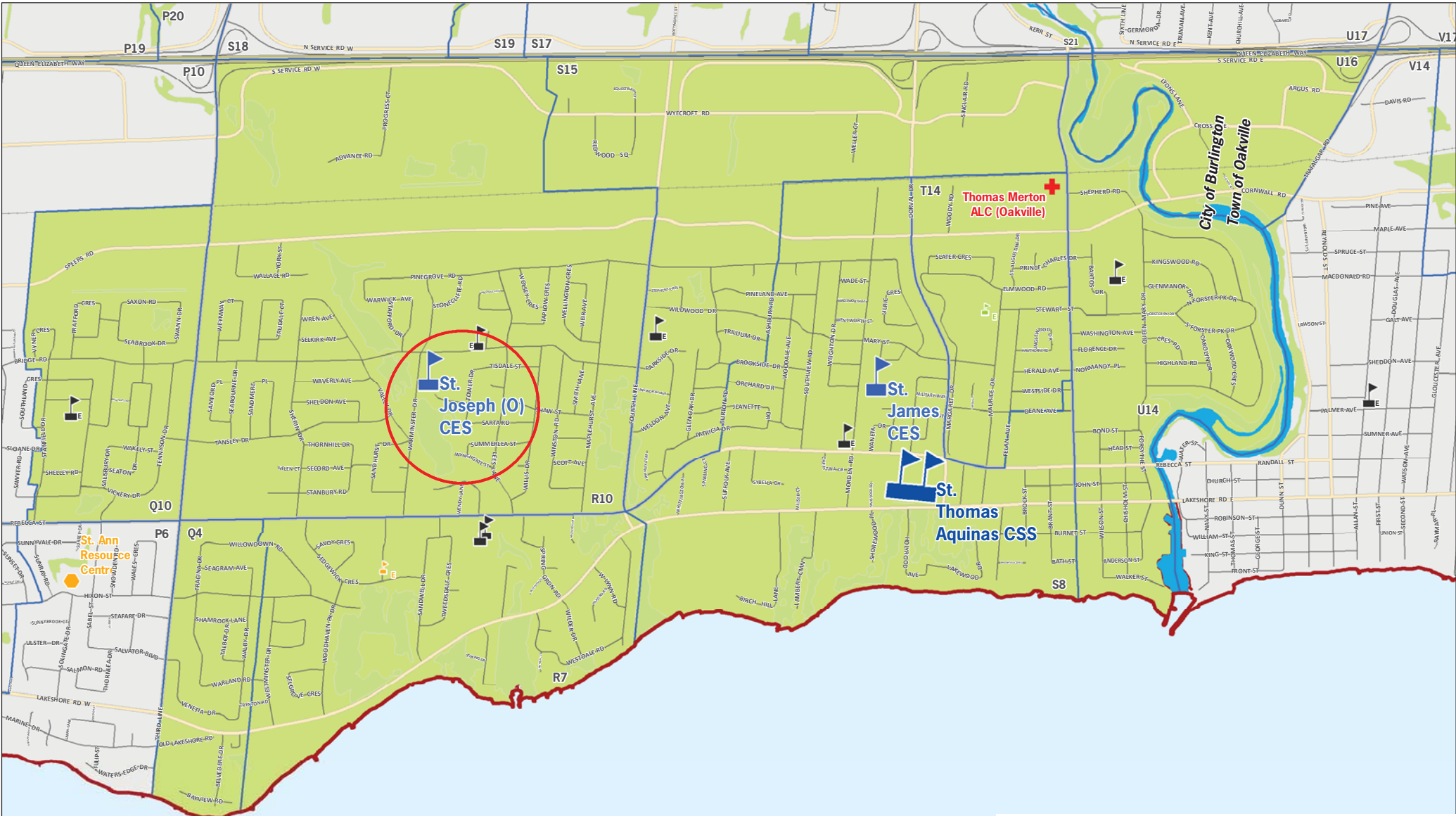




**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
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# **APPENDIX H**





# Proposed St. Joseph CES Attendance Boundary Oakville South QEW Accommodation Review Area

The current street network was provided by the Regional Municipality of Halton and the Region assumes no responsibility or liability for its use or accuracy. Proposed maps are subject to change. It is the intention of the HCDSB to provide up-to-date and accurate information, and reasonable efforts have been made by the HCDSB to verify the information, however a degree of error or change is inherent. This information is distributed "as is" without warranty. HCDSB assumes no legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information. If you require additional information please contact the Planning Services Department at 905-632-6300 or visit [www.haltonbsb.ca](http://www.haltonbsb.ca) for additional school boundary information.

- HCDSB Schools
- HDSB Schools
- CE01 - Oakville South QEW RA
- CS Viamonde Schools
- CSDCCS Schools
- Proposed St. Joseph (O) CES Boundary
- HCDSB Adult Learning Centre
- HCDSB Administration

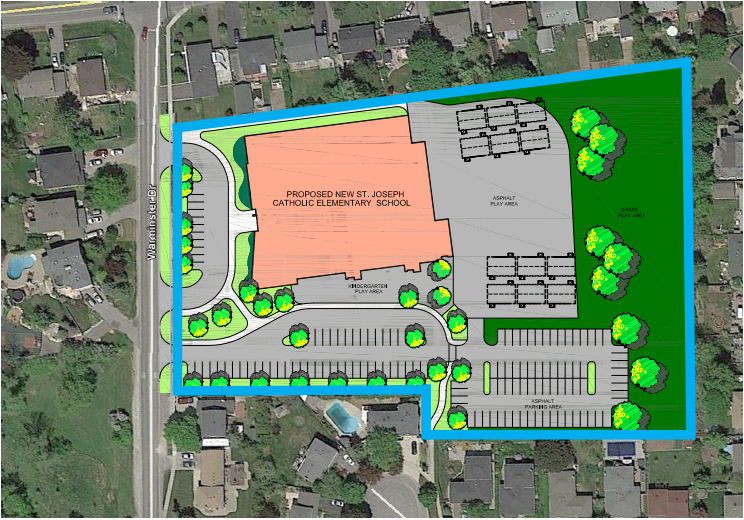


**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
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# **APPENDIX I**

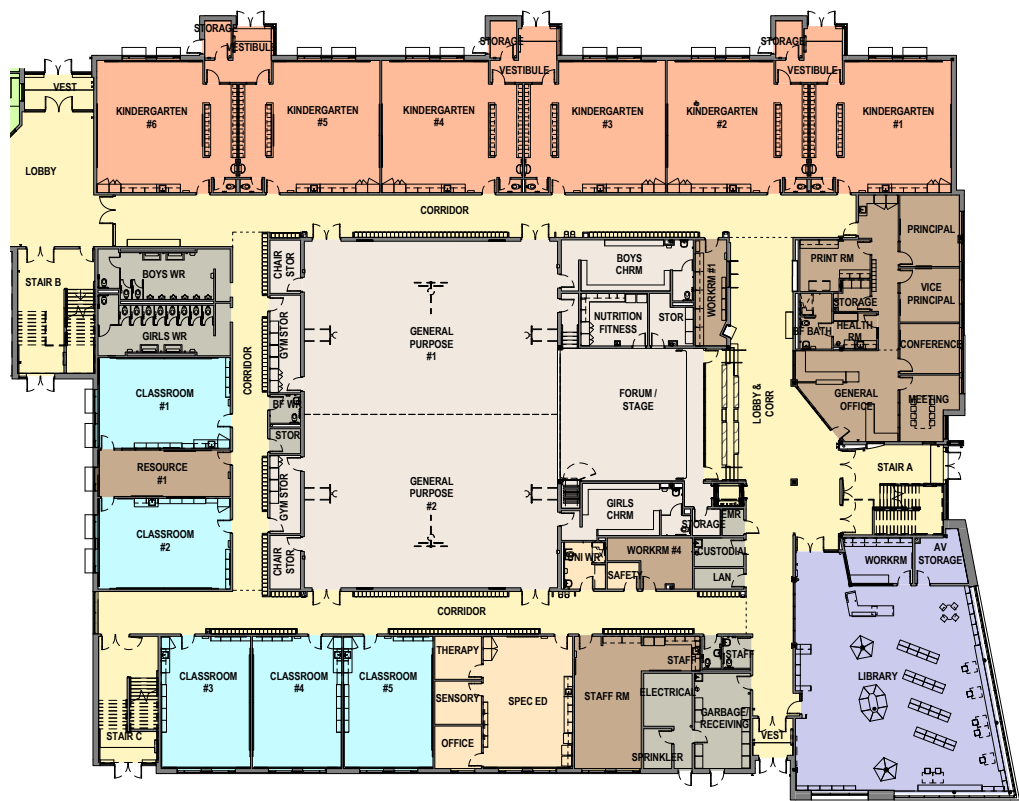
# St. Joseph (Oakville) Catholic Elementary School Site

## Proposed Site for Oakville South School





# Proposed Concept of Ground Floor Plan of Oakville South School

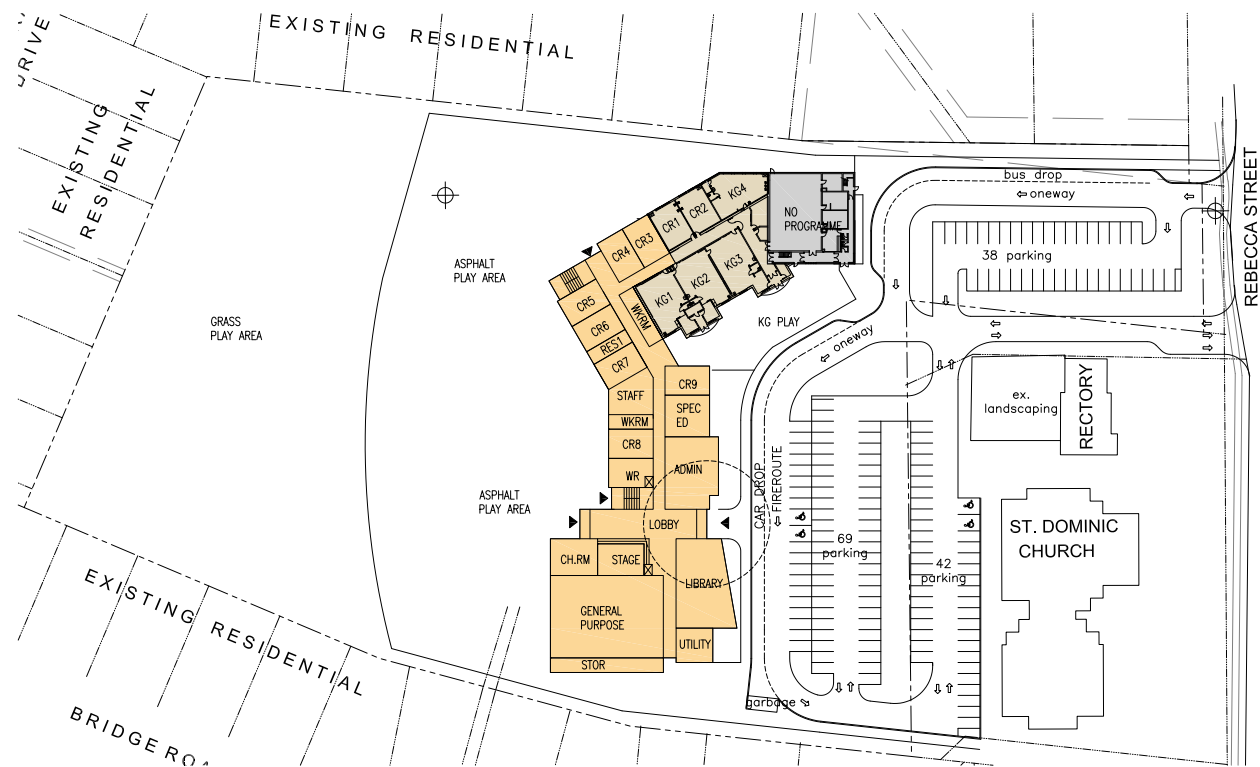


# Proposed Concept of Second Floor Plan of Oakville South School

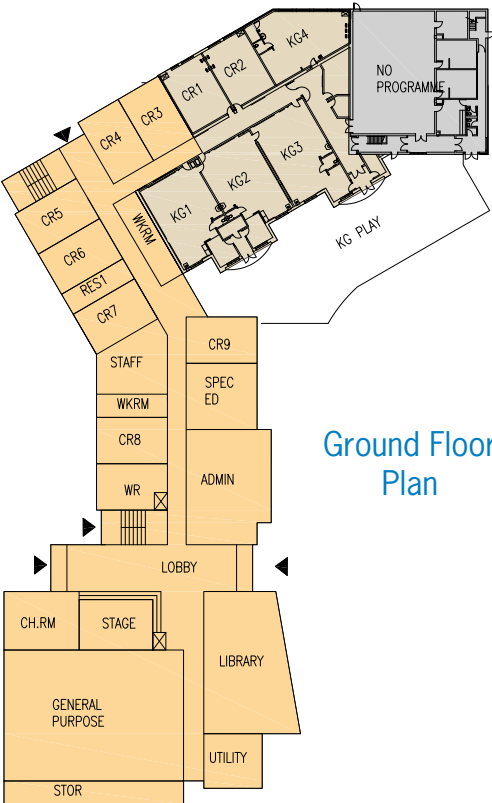


Retractable Wall between Classroom #8 and Classroom #9

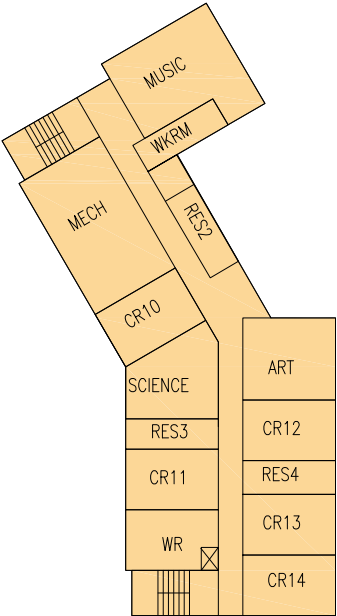
# Proposed Concept of Site Plan of St. Dominic Catholic Elementary School Rebuild



# Proposed Concept of Ground and Second Floor Plan of St. Dominic Catholic Elementary School Rebuild



Ground Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan

## Proposed Concept of Oakville South School



## Proposed Concept of St. Dominic Catholic Elementary School Rebuild





**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Oakville South Central School Project**

# **APPENDIX J**

**Affirmation Letter: Capital Funding for New Construction of Child Care – School Consolidation Capital**

School Board Name: Halton Catholic District School Board

School Consolidation Capital Proposal: St. Dominic CES Rebuild Project

Rank: 5

**Current Scenario - Existing Schools**

|       |                 | Existing Licensed Child Care Capacity |         |            |       |        |         |            |       |
|-------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------|------------|-------|--------|---------|------------|-------|
|       |                 | Spaces                                |         |            |       | Rooms  |         |            |       |
| SFIS  | School Name     | Infant                                | Toddler | Pre-school | Total | Infant | Toddler | Pre-school | Total |
| 8122  | St. Dominic CES | 0                                     | 0       | 0          | 0     | 0      | 0       | 0          | 0     |
|       |                 |                                       |         |            | 0     |        |         |            | 0     |
|       |                 |                                       |         |            | 0     |        |         |            | 0     |
|       |                 |                                       |         |            | 0     |        |         |            | 0     |
|       |                 |                                       |         |            | 0     |        |         |            | 0     |
| TOTAL |                 | 0                                     | 0       | 0          | 0     | 0      | 0       | 0          | 0     |

**Proposed Solution - Resulting Schools**

|                |                              |                 | Child Care Rooms Being Requested |         |            |       |        | Opening Date |            |
|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------|------------|-------|--------|--------------|------------|
|                |                              |                 | Rooms                            |         |            | Total |        |              |            |
| School Name    | School Address               | Postal Code     | Infant                           | Toddler | Pre-school | Rooms | Spaces | School       | Child Care |
|                |                              | Spaces per room | 10                               | 15      | 24         |       |        |              |            |
| St Dominic CES | 2405 Rebecca Street Oakville | L6L 2B1         | 1                                | 2       | 2          | 5     | 88     | 1/09/18      | 1/09/18    |
|                |                              |                 |                                  |         |            | 0     | 0      |              |            |
|                |                              |                 |                                  |         |            | 0     | 0      |              |            |
|                |                              |                 |                                  |         |            | 0     | 0      |              |            |
| TOTAL          |                              |                 | 1                                | 2       | 2          | 5     | 88     |              |            |

This is to affirm that this Affirmation Letter has been jointly approved by the school board and Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) or District School Services Administration Board (DSSAB) listed below. The school board has the support of the corresponding CMSM/DSSAB regarding the eligibility and viability requirements to build child care rooms and create spaces for ages 0 to 3.8 years in the identified schools and affirms that the new spaces will not result in an operating pressure for the CMSM/DSSAB.

Please Note: For this request to be considered for funding, this Affirmation Letter must be submitted as part of the school board's School Consolidation Capital business case. A copy must also be provided to your school board's Ministry Early Years Regional Staff (Education Officer and Child Care Advisor) and Capital Analyst.

Halton Region  
Name of CMSM/DSSAB

Mary Beth Jonz  
Manager of Children's Services (CMSM/DSSAB) Name

Mary Beth Jonz  
Manager of Children's Services (CMSM/DSSAB) Signature

Feb 26, 2016  
Date

Halton Catholic DSB  
Director of Education (School Board) Name

Dawson  
Director of Education (School Board) Signature

Feb. 26/16  
Date

Over for Project  
Details →



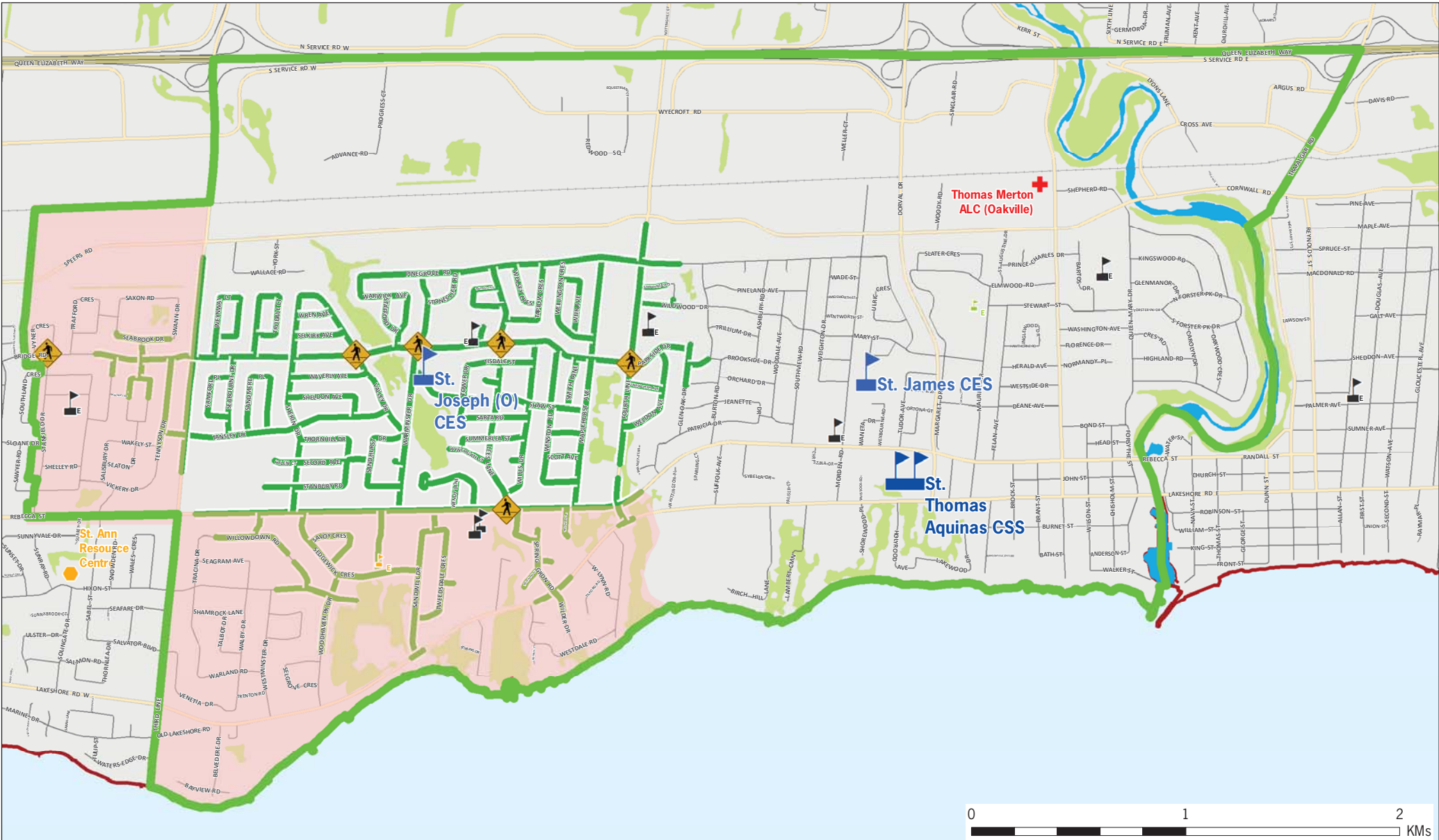
The Halton Catholic District School is requesting \$7,724,975 in funding for the new St. Dominic CES rebuild under the Ministry of Education's 2015 School Consolidation Capital Funding (Memorandum 2015: B16) to support the consolidation of the two (2) affected schools into a newly constructed 504 pupil place facility located on the existing St. Joseph School site for the 2018-19 school year. In addition, the Board is also requesting \$2,520,850 in funding to construct a five (5) room 8,600 square foot child-care centre under the Ministry of Education's 2015 Capital Funding for New Construction of Child Care – School Consolidation Capital (Memorandum 2015: B16).

Also note that the Region of Halton is also reviewing opportunities to potentially add a second floor to the proposed 8,600 child care wing to incorporate additional Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres uses to further enhance the community hub experience at the proposed school.



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Oakville South Central School Project**

# **APPENDIX K**



# Proposed St. Joseph CES 1.6km Walking Web Oakville South QEW Accommodation Review Area

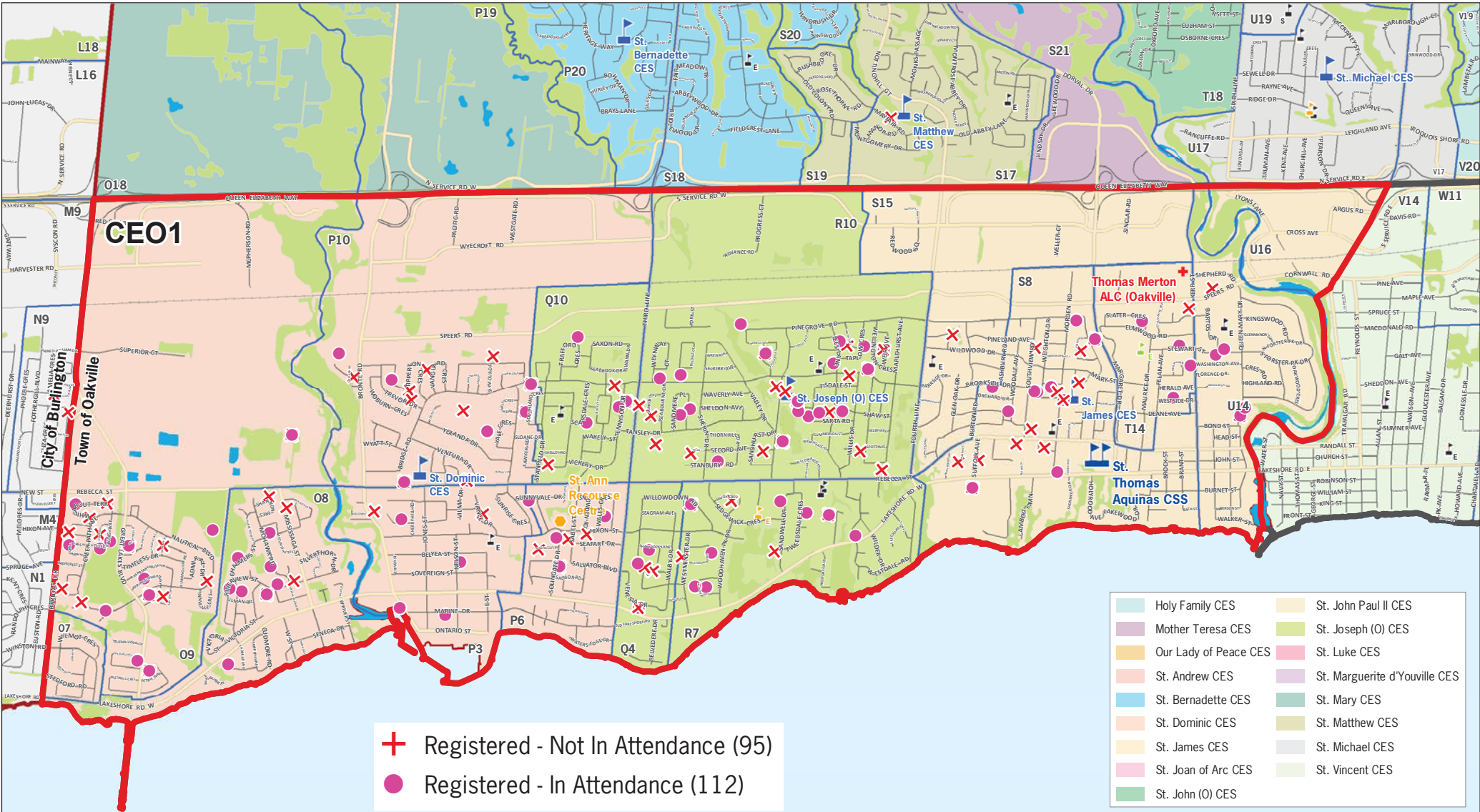
The current street network was provided by the Regional Municipality of Halton and the Region assumes no responsibility or liability for its use or accuracy. Proposed maps are subject to change. It is the intention of the HCDSB to provide up-to-date and accurate information, and reasonable efforts have been made by the HCDSB to verify the information, however a degree of error or change is inherent. This information is distributed "as is" without warranty. HCDSB assumes no legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information. If you require additional information please contact the Planning Services Department at 905-632-6300 or visit www.haltonbus.ca for additional school boundary information.

- HCDSB Schools
- HDSB Schools
- CE01 - Oakville South QEW RA
- CS Viamonde Schools
- CSDCCS Schools
- Proposed St. Joseph (O) CES Boundary
- HCDSB Adult Learning Centre
- HCDSB Administration



**Modified Pupil Accommodation Review  
Interim Staff Report Oakville South Central School Project**

# **APPENDIX L**



+ Registered - Not In Attendance (95)  
● Registered - In Attendance (112)

|                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Holy Family CES       | St. John Paul II CES          |
| Mother Teresa CES     | St. Joseph (O) CES            |
| Our Lady of Peace CES | St. Luke CES                  |
| St. Andrew CES        | St. Marguerite d'Youville CES |
| St. Bernadette CES    | St. Mary CES                  |
| St. Dominic CES       | St. Matthew CES               |
| St. James CES         | St. Michael CES               |
| St. Joan of Arc CES   | St. Vincent CES               |
| St. John (O) CES      |                               |