



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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www.cdsbeo.on.ca



October 20, 2016

Dear ARC Members:

Thank you for volunteering your time to participate as a member of the Cornwall ARC Committee. ARC Committees play an important role in the public consultation process and act as the official conduit for information shared between the Board and the affected school communities.

As you already know, the Board of Trustees for the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario approved the commencement of a Pupil Accommodation Review (ARC) in the Cornwall area at the Board Meeting of October 4, 2016. The nine schools involved in this review include the following:

- Bishop Macdonell
- Holy Trinity
- Immaculate Conception
- Sacred Heart
- St. Anne
- St. Columban's
- St. Peter
- St. Joseph CSS
- St. Matthew CSS

The first meeting of the ARC Committee will be an Orientation Meeting. The purpose of this meeting will be to outline the roles and responsibilities of the ARC Committee; review the ARC Terms of Reference; review enrolment and demographics for the area and complete a high level review of the Initial Staff Report. In addition, we will discuss how we will prepare for Public Meeting #1 to be held on Wednesday, November 30, 2016. Your input is essential in this process.

The **ARC Orientation Meeting** is scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, October 26, 2016 - 6:30pm
St. Joseph CSS - Library
1500A Cumberland St.
Cornwall, ON

ARC members are encouraged to read the Board Report and proposed options identified in the Initial Staff Report that were presented to trustees by staff. These reports are posted in their entirety on the board website at www.cdsbeo.on.ca. A bound copy of the Initial Staff Report will be provided to you at the Orientation Meeting. The Committee will have time to review the Report at the meeting.

It is important to remember that the inclusion of a school(s) in the accommodation review process does not necessarily mean that it will close. Accommodation reviews are designed to look at a grouping of

schools to determine the best solution for everyone involved in the process. While the Initial Staff Report may contain a proposed option that impacts schools in Cornwall, it does not mean that this will be the option that will ultimately be approved. The ARC Committee will be instrumental in providing direction in this regard. The final decision by the Board of Trustees to move forward with a recommendation will not take place until after extensive consultation with the community takes place. This is part of the review process.

Public consultations is at the heart of the accommodation review process. The ARC Committee will hold a number of working group meetings as well as two public meetings.

A public delegation evening will also be part of the consultation process. The goal of the ARC is to engage a wide range of school and community groups to participate in the consultation in order to gather feedback on the proposed accommodation options, developed by staff, to present to the Board for its consideration. The review could result in recommendations including:

- The closure or consolidation of a school(s);
- Changes to grades and programs offered at a school(s);
- New facilities and/or upgrades
- School boundary changes
- Partnerships and/or joint use opportunities;
- Status quo (no changes).

The staff recommendations, outlined in the October 4, 2016 Initial Staff Report, will be presented at the first public meeting, which is scheduled for November 30, 2016. These recommendations provide a foundation for the committee's discussions. The committee may also create alternative accommodation options, which should be consistent with the objectives and criteria outlined in the committee's terms of reference.

One does not have to be a member of the ARC to express his/her opinion and provide feedback. Everyone is welcome to submit his/her comments directly via email to PAR@cdsbeo.on.ca.

I look forward to working with each of you as your ARC Committee Chair.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me for assistance or email us at PAR@cdsbeo.on.ca.

Sincerely,



John Cameron
Superintendent of School Effectiveness
ARC Committee Chair

Copies: Trustees
Executive Council