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# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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## Appendix 24

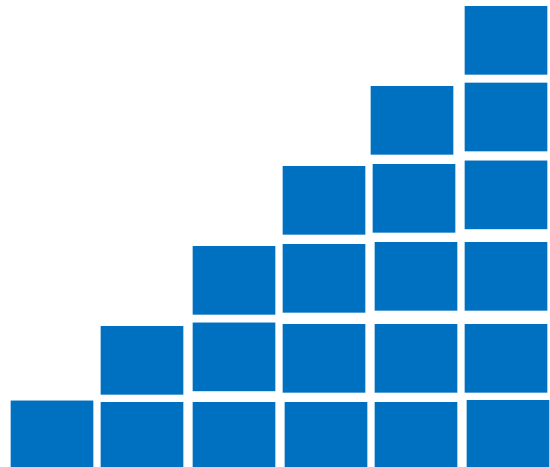
### STAFF REPORT – Report 2

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March 2017

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Chair

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Director of Education



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## NEWS LOCAL

### UPDATE: Three Cornwall Catholic schools ID'd for closure



By Greg Peerenboom, Cornwall Standard-Freeholder  
Wednesday, October 5, 2016 4:51:28 EDT PM



Shown is Immaculate Conception School on McConnell Avenue, one of the schools identified for school closure review. Greg Peerenboom/Cornwall Standard-Freeholder

A school-closure study is now also underway for Cornwall's Catholic schools.

But Cornwall Trustee Todd Lalonde repeatedly stressed in an interview Wednesday the board has to hear from parents, students and the general public before concrete plans take shape.

Lalonde voted along with other Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario trustees on Tuesday in Kemptville to start a Cornwall Area Pupil Accommodation Review study, which will run from now until May 2.

“It’s only a review that we have to put in place so we can have conversation,” Lalonde said.

Input from a series of meetings and other communication avenues will be rolled into a recommendation for the board in April 2017 and the presented in May.

The study was initiated as the board wishes to find solutions to existing and expected vacant student spaces in Cornwall schools. There were 481 empty spaces in June 2016, a number the board projects could reach 751 by 2029.

Reflecting on the figures, Lalonde said the board is following the same directive, to find solutions to under-utilized schools, facing other Ontario boards from the Ministry of Education.

Lalonde said as a trustee he has a duty to make sure as much tax revenue as possible flows into classroom education and programming, not to upgrade old schools at an ever mounting cost.

“We have to look at what’s best for the students — it’s all about educating students.

Lalonde was asked about accuracy of the projected figures, suggesting there would be almost 300 more open spaces.

Told that municipal officials are trying to increase the population at a fast rate, Lalonde said historical data suggests growth will be minimal

Besides, he said when most the schools were built, they were meeting the challenge of servicing families of “six-plus kids”.

“Their kids are having fewer kids.”

In its report to trustees, board administration has put forward two options that would redraw the face of Catholic education in the city and — the high school level — into SDG. Both options would require funding from the Ministry of Education, so even if trustees approved any option containing closures, further approval would be required for any new construction proposed under that option.

The first option presented to trustees recommends:

- Closing Immaculate Conception, with 154 students, redirecting them to Bishop Macdonell and St. Peter;
- Merging St. Columban’s and its 193 students and Sacred Heart with its 216 students in a new school to be built at the Sacred Heart site or nearby — this would include having grades 7 and 8 students redirected to St. Joseph’s Catholic Secondary School;
- Converting Bishop Macdonell to a dual-track English and French immersion school, with grades 7 and 8 students redirected to St. Joseph’s;
- Moving the grades 7 and 8 students from St. Anne to St. Joseph’s; and,
- Building a new St. Joseph’s as a Grade 7-12 school on the existing site or a new one.

This option would require ministry funding for the new Sacred Heart school as well as rebuilding St. Joseph’s.

The second option presented to trustees is almost identical to the first, with the exception it doesn’t propose rebuilding St. Joseph’s. Immaculate Conception would still close, St. Columban’s and Sacred Heart would merge in a new school and the changes to Bishop Macdonell and St. Anne remain. The grades 7 and 8 students would still move to St. Joseph’s.

No changes are proposed for St. Matthew Catholic Secondary School or Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School.

The first public meeting has been scheduled for Nov. 30, with details on a location and time to be announced.

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## Four Cornwall Catholic schools on chopping block

🕒 October 5, 2016 👤 Editor 📁 Cornwall, News 💬 0



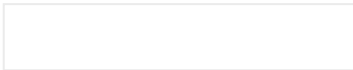
Cornwall Catholic trustee Todd Lalonde raises his hand on Tuesday, Oct 4, 2016 to vote for a review of nine Cornwall schools. Facing declining enrollment, the board is looking at closing four schools and consolidating its operations. Also at the table are chairman Brent Laton and Director of Education Bill Gartland. (Newswatch Group/Bill Kingston)

KEMPTVILLE – Nine Cornwall Catholic schools are under the microscope with four sites identified for possible closure, starting in the summer of 2018.

Trustees voted Tuesday night in Kemptville, Ont. to receive the 166-page report from staff and begin the Pupil Accommodation Review process, which includes striking a committee and setting up a timeline for public meetings.

Under the proposal (Option 1), Immaculate Conception, St. Columban’s and Sacred Heart would close.

Immaculate Conception students would go to Bishop Macdonell and St. Peter; St. Columban’s and Sacred Heart students would go to a new JK-6 school to be built on the Sacred Heart site or somewhere nearby.



Bishop Macdonell and St. Anne schools would be converted to JK-6 facilities and grade 7 and 8 students would go to a newly-built St. Joseph Catholic Secondary School.

The current St. Joe’s location would close under the plan.

There are no changes proposed for St. Matthew Catholic Secondary School and Holy Trinity Elementary and Secondary.



If they went ahead, the closures and redirecting of students wouldn’t happen until June 2018 through September 2019.

The preferred changes would reduce the number of student spaces in Cornwall by 671, the overall operating and maintenance costs by \$20 million a year and would boost overall student seat use in the Cornwall family of schools to 97 per cent (currently at 86 per cent).

A secondary option (Option 2) would have the same closures as Option 1, except a new JK-6 school would be built to replace Sacred Heart and the existing St. Joe’s site would be converted to a grade 7-12 school. While it would result in cutting more student spaces, it’s the less preferred option as the savings would only be \$12.2 million a year due to huge price tag (\$7.7 million) to upkeep the old St. Joe’s site.

Much like the Upper Canada board, the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario is facing a financial crunch because of empty seats in Cornwall schools.

The board argues it's losing \$653,353 a year in revenue because of 481 unused student spaces (30 per cent of entire vacancy in the board this school year) – money that could be reinvested in the classroom.

With enrollment in Cornwall (currently 2,887 students) projected to fall 9.4 per cent by 2029, the CDSBEO argues the financial loss due on the provincial funding formula, calculated on used class space, will become even worse.



**Bonnie Norton, the superintendent of business for the CDSBEO, presents the Pupil Accommodation Review to the board of trustees on Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016. The provincially-triggered review of nine Cornwall schools could see the closure of four sites, along with consolidation, if the plan goes ahead. (Newswatch Group/Bill Kingston)**

Cornwall and Glengarry County trustee Todd Lalonde was quick to point the finger at the Ministry of Education for the situation, while tempering his comments that the review was “due diligence” and “nothing is written in stone.”

“Being under the ministry, that’s the reason we’re doing this. It’s required. I think it’s important that people recognize that we don’t get the wrong message out in the community...we are doing what’s asked of us as a board of trustees,” he told fellow trustees.

But Lalonde said he couldn’t ignore the significant projected savings of \$20 million. “For the simple fact that, if we can save some money somewhere, down the road and redirect that into the classrooms... there’s only one winner, that’s the students.”

“This is not going to happen unless it’s the best thing for the board. We are not rushing to close schools,” he said.

In an interview with Cornwall Newswatch, Lalonde was still careful to say this is just a review.



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Fellow Cornwall-area trustee Ron Eamer said the report was “not the best reading in the world.” He was concerned whether the board was talking to the City of Cornwall about building plans, because three subdivisions were under construction where a new school would be built.

Eamer told Cornwall Newswatch the options are not a done deal and may look completely different by the end of the process.



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As for the public review, the public meeting dates have already been picked – Nov. 30, 2016 and Feb. 15, 2017 – at a location to be announced. Presentations to the school board will also take place April 4, 2017.

The final recommendation would come to the board on May 2, 2017 and the process would be complete no later than June 2017.

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## CDSBEO proposes to replace St. Joes and close three other schools

Nick Seebruch

Published on October 5, 2016

CORNWALL, Ontario - A report received by the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario (CDSBEO) on Tuesday, Oct. 4 recommends that three elementary schools be consolidated and that St. Joes be torn down and rebuilt.

The plan called the Pupil Accommodation Review was a mandatory process introduced by the Ministry of Education in 2015 to compel school boards to review and manage underutilized school space.

The review conducted by the CDSBEO found that there are 481 vacant spots in the Cornwall area right now and that number is expected to rise to 751 by 2030.

To combat declining enrollment, the CDSBEO's Pupil Accommodation Review puts forth two options.

The first option would see Immaculate Conception, St. Columban's and Sacred Heart consolidated (closed) into other schools in the area.



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Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario building on Campbell Street in Cornwall (Nick Seebruch/ Seaway News).



Enrollment at Immaculate Conception would be redirected to Bishop Macdonell and St. Peter, while students will be sent from St. Columban's and Sacred Heart to a new JK to Grade 6 facility or an unnamed nearby alternative.

All Grade 7 to 8 students from St. Columban's, Sacred Heart, St. Anne's and Bishop MacDonell would be sent to St. Joe's.

If Option 1 is successful, St. Joe's would have to be closed under this plan and a new school would be built either at the current site or a new site.

The second option is the same as the first except the current St. Joe's site would remain and the building would be converted to a Grade 7 to 12 facility.

According to the review the second option would cost the school board almost \$8 million more than tearing down St. Joe's and building a new facility.

The CDSBEO is expected to form an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) and the first public consultation is scheduled on Nov. 30 with the location yet to be determined.

The CDSBEO's announcement comes one week after the Upper Canada District School Board (UCDSB) made its own Pupil Accommodation Review announcement.

The UCDSB proposed to close 12 schools by July 2017 to cope with 10,000 open spaces across its board.

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## NEWS LOCAL

### New school vs. renovation at Cornwall's St. Joe's Secondary



By Greg Peerenboom, Cornwall Standard-Freeholder  
Thursday, November 10, 2016 8:45:54 EST PM



A member of an Accommodation Review Committee listens to an explanation as she completes a school ranking during a working meeting at St. Joseph's on Wednesday. Greg Peerenboom/Cornwall Standard-Freeholder

If local English Catholic (EC) school representatives had the final say, they would renovate St. Joseph's instead of replacing it.

Accommodation Review Committee members for the Cornwall EC's six elementary and three high schools were asked Wednesday at the Joe's library their preferences between two options being floated by their EC board of eastern Ontario.

Option 2 (expanding St. Joe's) garnered 18 votes, while Option 1 (rebuilding St. Joe's at another site) took 11.

Top of the ARC members' concerns was the potential loss of programming if a St. Joe's replacement facility is smaller than the current school.

"A new school would be close in size to Holy Trinity," said board superintendent John Cameron.

"How do we make a decision on programming without knowing the number of programs . . . that a new school would offer?" asked one ARC member.

Cameron explained that Holy Trinity's smaller building only allows for a woodworking shop.

St. Joe's larger size offers important extras: auto, a standalone auditorium and home economics.

One member wondered how ARC could twist the education minister's arms to allow for a bigger rebuild.

Business superintendent Bonnie Norton said a rebuilt school would be needed to satisfy a ministry-wide "benchmark" which would be used for a construction tender.

Another big concern will be the increase of time students spend on buses.

Both options would result in larger geographical boundaries if the board goes ahead with the reduction of two schools.

"Some parents can't afford to pay for a taxi if they need to go pick up their kid," said a member, explaining that Immaculate Conception has high proportion of students who are in walking distance.

Norton said busing times would not increase significantly — but the member further explained she was referring to situations when the child has to be picked up during the day when buses are not running.

Option 2 also includes closing Immaculate Conception to transfer students to a dual track JK-6 Bishop MacDonnell and St. Peter; closing St. Columban's and Sacred Heart to build a new JK-6 school at the Sacred Heart site (or nearby); removing grades 7-8 from the surviving schools, plus St. Anne, which becomes a JK-6 facility; and expanding St. Joe's for Grades 7-12.

Under the board's calculations, school capacity would be reduced by 697 student places, resulting in 98 per cent utilization.

Over five years, renewal costs would be reduced by \$11.8 million to \$18.5 million.

Option 1 is, however, being recommended by the board (at this stage in the consultations).

Option 1 differs in that St. Joe's would close after a new school is built on the existing or alternative site.

Utilization would be 97%, but the board figures to save \$19.6 million instead.

The ARC process will continue with a public meeting at St. Joe's on Nov. 30 that will allow for participants to get specific information at a number of kiosk tables, view 'presentation boards' and possible 'loop slides' with other info.

The ARCs will then re-assemble for another working meeting on Dec. 7.

More working meetings could be scheduled before a second public meeting on Feb. 15. A final ARC working meeting would be held Feb. 22. This would lead to an initial staff report to the board of trustees on March 7.

Public delegations would be allowed at the April 4 board meeting, leading to the final report, for a vote on May 2.

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# Catholic school closure plan public meeting tonight

🕒 November 30, 2016    👤 Editor    📁 Cornwall, News    💬 0



**Cornwall Catholic trustee Todd Lalonde raises his hand on Tuesday, Oct 4, 2016 to vote for a review of nine Cornwall schools. Facing declining enrollment, the board is looking at closing four schools and consolidating its operations. Also at the table are chairman Brent Laton and Director of Education Bill Gartland. (Newswatch Group/Bill Kingston)**

CORNWALL – The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario will hold its first public meeting tonight (Wednesday) on the future of its schools in the city.

Under the board's 166-page Pupil Accommodation Review report, four schools are earmarked for possible closure in a bid to maximize funding from the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Under the proposal, Immaculate Conception, St. Columban's and Sacred Heart would close.

Immaculate Conception students would go to Bishop Macdonell while students at the other two schools would be housed in a new JK-6 school on or near the Sacred Heart site.

St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School would also close and a new St. Joe's would be built elsewhere, taking existing students plus grade 7 and 8 students from Bishop Macdonell and St. Anne as those two elementary schools are converted to JK-6 facilities.

If it goes ahead, the changes wouldn't take place until June 2018 through September 2019.

The plan would reduce the number of overall student spaces to 671 in Cornwall and boost overall seat use in the Cornwall family of schools to 97 per cent.

The public meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School at 1500A Cumberland Street in Cornwall.

A final recommendation will come to the Catholic school board on May 2, 2017.

Follow Cornwall Newswatch on Twitter [@cwlnewswatch](#) for updates from the meeting.

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## NEWS LOCAL

### UPDATE – Parents weigh in on school plans



By Lois Ann Baker, Cornwall Standard-Freeholder  
Thursday, December 1, 2016 11:00:26 EST AM



Paul Mantha and Cindy Morgan from the Religious Education department on Wednesday November 30, 2016 in Cornwall, Ont. of the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario Lois Ann Baker/Cornwall Standard-Freeholder/Postmedia Network

*This article has been updated to include more interviews and information obtained after our print-edition deadline on Nov. 30.*

Many of the parents who came to the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario's public meeting on proposed school closures with their questions Wednesday were seeking the positives.

While not a lot of parents showed up to hear what the board had to say, those who did were glad to express their opinion.

Ashley Bergeron, a parent who also happens to be a member of the accommodation review committee studying the proposals, said it was hard to hear about the closing of some of the schools, especially St. Columban's.

"It's a traditional school because a lot of my family has gone there," she said. "The original school my grandmother went to. It's hard to see go because it had such a good dynamic."



The board has proposed closing St. Columban's and consolidating its students with those from Sacred Heart in a new school.

Bergeron said she does see the benefits of building a new school.

"The older schools don't have the new technology or the new things we have today," she said. "They are not all wheelchair accessible, so it's inconvenient for a lot of the parents."

Bergeron said you had to look at all the pros of a new school.

"It allows the kids to grow more," she said. "You have all the new technology, like fully wired for Wi-Fi, you have the newer computer labs. In older schools it's too much to add. It's just losing the dynamic each school has as an individual is the hard part."

Parent Janet Kaddie said she was excited about the possibility of rebuilding Sacred Heart as a better, bigger school.

"I'm a parent, but I'm also a student supervisor at Sacred Heart and I am on school council," she said.

Kaddie said she came to the meeting to see what the board was planning for the school.

"It sounds like it is so up in the air right now so it's hard to comment on anything," she said. "They haven't made a decision. But I'm going to make a comment that they should build new."

Kaddie said she had a son who attends St. Joseph Catholic Secondary School and he told her he has to go out in the cold to get to a class in a portable classroom, which she is not happy about.

"I didn't realize that," she said. "I don't think portables should be thought of by anyone to be permanent housing for kids. I think they should be in a safe, warm school."

The school board has proposed two options for St. Joe's, one an expansion and renovation at the current location; the other to build a new school. The school facility and grounds are shared with the Upper Canada School Board's principal T.R. Leger site.

Kaddie said she was hoping the board would decide to rebuild the schools and not keep the older schools.

"They have to do something because they (the schools) are old and not working anymore for the students," she said.

"I like the idea they are going to rebuild the schools," said Kristine Krueger. "I like the idea that maybe even St. Joe's will be redone. I have one (child) in high school and one who will be going into Grade 8 by then, so they are going to be in the same school."

Krueger said she volunteers at some schools and she can see how few students are in the schoolyard.

"I do like separating the Grade 7 and 8s," she said. "So they can start feeling like it's not such a big jump to high school. That's what I do enjoy with this plan."

Another parent who asked not to be named said she was not in favour of mega-schools and she wasn't completely sure about what the board was considering. Her child attends Holy Trinity, but lives in the St. Joe's attendance area. St. Joe's currently doesn't offer grades 7 and 8 and the board is proposing adding those grades to the school.

"My concern is Holy Trinity is at maximum capacity, if they bump those other schools, my kid is going to have to go somewhere else," she said. "So now she has to go back to St. Anne's. She has already moved schools three times and now she may have to move again."

Her other child is just finishing Grade 6 and she isn't sure where he will be going.

"I don't even like Grade 7 and 8 in high schools," she said. "Yes they are separate, but I don't even like that. Me as a little person has no voice."

"I'm trying to be pro and against, but I don't have enough information."

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## NEWS LOCAL

# Cornwall Catholic school review committee raises questions on St. Matt's, boundaries



By Lois Ann Baker, Cornwall Standard-Freeholder  
Thursday, December 8, 2016 11:46:20 EST AM



Joy Martel, Rob Lauzon and Kelly McDermid at the CDSBEO's ARC meeting on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 in Cornwall, Ont.  
Lois Ann Baker/Cornwall Standard-Freeholder/Postmedia Network

The committee looking at the future of Catholic schools in Cornwall discussed two items it wants the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario to investigate.

Meeting Wednesday night at St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School, the committee didn't propose any new options beyond the two sets of recommendations written by administrators, but had questions about St. Matthew Catholic Secondary School and elementary school boundaries.

According to the preferred option, no changes were proposed to St. Matthew's, however principal Joy Martel expressed concerns about the Grade 7 and 8 kids who require special classes. St. Matthew is already the home of a number of alternate and special programs for Grade 12 students.

With the other high schools going to a Grade 7-12 model, it would mean two transitions for students who might feel St. Matt's is a better fit for their secondary education. The children would be in one school until Grade 7, then transfer to another school, either St. Joe's or Holy Trinity and then again to St. Matt's for Grade 9.

Martel said she was worried they were going to lose students who might be intimidated about going to a larger school.

She suggested opening up St. Matt's to grades 7 and 8, but moving the school to a larger facility, perhaps one of the elementary schools proposed for closure.

Consultant Jack Ammendolia of C.N. Watson Economists said one of the issues with that scenario was parents would question why their elementary students had to leave the school which was deemed unfit, only to have other students move into the same space.

"We will get back to you to show you what it will look like so you can decide if this becomes a tweak or another option," he said.

Another big issue was school boundaries. A concern for some was moving St. Columban's students to Sacred Heart. Most of the children walk to St. Columban's and would now have to be bused to Sacred Heart. If they were instead re-routed to Bishop MacDonell, most would still be able to walk to school as well as to church for mass.

Ammendolia said they chose the boundaries to make sure the children were kept together, but they would look at the boundaries again and report back at the next ARC meeting. Parents on the committee agreed that friendships at that young age are important and the school communities should be kept together as much as possible.

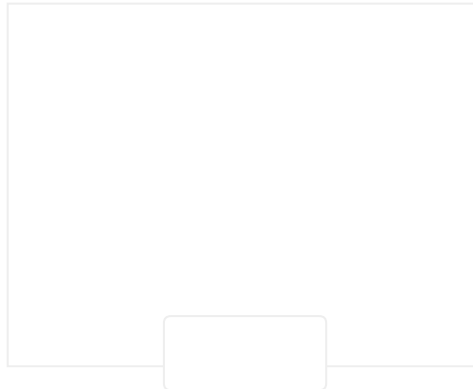
When asked if students could cross boundaries to go to the school of their choice, Ammendolia said a student could only cross the boundary if there was space available at the preferred school, otherwise they would have to attend the school within their boundary.

Ammendolia said the feedback from the committee was good and he and chair John Cameron and superintendent of business Bonnie Norton would review the ideas and report back at the next working meeting.

The next ARC working meeting will be scheduled for some time in early 2017. The next public meeting with an update for parents and community members is scheduled for Feb. 15.

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## NEWS LOCAL

### Progress on Catholic board accommodation review



By Greg Peerenboom, Cornwall Standard-Freeholder  
Thursday, January 19, 2017 9:43:55 EST PM



From left, Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario superintendent of business Bonnie Norton and superintendent of school effectiveness John Cameron listen to a report by consultant Jack Ammendolia of CN Watson and Assoc. during the Cornwall Area Pupil Accommodation Review working meeting at St. Joseph's on Wednesday January 18, 2017 in Cornwall, Ont. Greg Peerenboom/Cornwall Standard-Freeholder/Postmedia Network

After three meetings — two “working” and one public — city Catholic education supporters appear to be plotting a course to close Immaculate Conception and build a new Sacred Heart school.

Representatives for these schools, plus Bishop Macdonell, St. Peter, St. Anne, St. Columban, Holy Trinity, St. Joseph and St. Matthew gathered Wednesday evening at St. Joe's to hear out scenarios, presented by consultant Jack Ammendolia of CN Watson and Assoc.

Ammendolia, with the use of overhead slides, described some of the rationale for the likeliest scenarios to be presented to a public meeting.

The original proposal for closing Immaculate is to split its 175 students to St. Peter and Bishop Macdonell, but the local Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) asked what would happen if all Immaculate students were transferred to St. Peter.

This would require St. Peter to expand to increase its current capacity of 245.

As such, Bishop Macdonell would remain with a surplus of about 150-195 spaces — a scenario the board does not want to maintain. The board was also asked to consider the closure of St. Peter, and sending its students to Immaculate.

But this was not a favourable proposal, as it would require an expansion at Immaculate, which is a smaller property with already inadequate parking.

St. Peter is also 10 years newer and underwent a \$500,000 facelift two years ago.

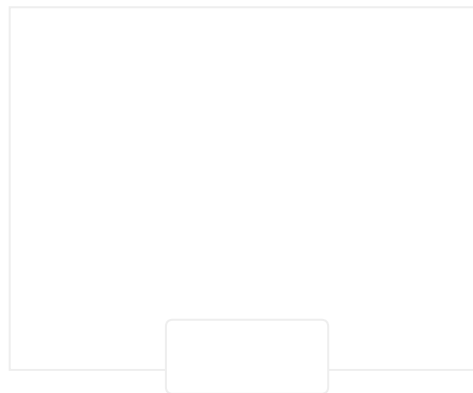
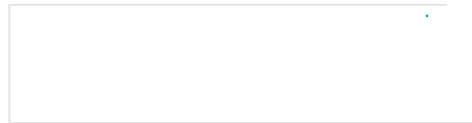
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Other scenarios presented were:

- to send St. Anne students north of Highway 401 to Sacred Heart. This would decrease St. Anne to a stable enrolment of 300 while Sacred Heart would gain 70 pupils.
- to direct all of proposed Bishop Macdonell/Immaculate boundary students to St. Joe's. This would increase and reduce enrolment at St. Joe's and Holy Trinity by 30, respectively.
- Options for the new Sacred Heart-Bishop Macdonell boundary, to use Ninth Street or Seventh Street. If Ninth Street was used, Bishop would have up to 490 with Grade 7-8; Sacred Heart's would be 290 with Grades 7-8. If Seventh Street was used, then Bishop's enrolment would be 405 with Grade 7-8, while Sacred Heart's would be 335.

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## CDSBEO moves forward with review

Alycia Douglass

Published on January 26, 2017

**CORNWALL, Ontario - At the Regular Board Meeting on Oct. 4, 2016 trustees of the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario (CDSBEO) voted for a Pupil Accommodation Review of several Cornwall schools. This could potentially lead to closures as soon as June 2018.**

With the ongoing fight against proposed closures within the Upper Canada District School Board, many are wondering what can be expected for students attending Catholic schools in Cornwall. While no concrete decisions have yet to take place, CDSBEO's Superintendent of Business, Bonnie Norton says that students' educational well being is always a priority.

The review was implemented in order to address issues surrounding a continued decline of enrolment, which shows no signs of slowing up to date.

While what's best for the board may be different than what's best for students, Norton says that the board is seeking to strike a balance with the current reviews. "Our



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Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario building on Campbell Street in Cornwall (Nick Seebruch/ Seaway News).



priority is always the student in the classroom," said Norton. "Keeping in mind that we have to be responsible."

Schools currently under review are Bishop Macdonell, Holy Trinity, Immaculate Conception, Sacred Heart, St. Anne, St. Columban's, St. Peter, St. Joseph CSS, and St. Matthew CSS.

"Once we bring final recommendations to board there will be a consultation period ministry to establish our capital needs," said Norton. "The board will then engage a Transition Committee to help work through the process."

Norton says that the board has received a positive public response to the review, with parents and guardians seeing it as a necessary step toward improvement. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend meetings in order to gain a better understanding of the Pupil Accommodation Review Process as it applies to their children.

Norton says that there has been a heavy emphasis on including the public in the dialogue. "We have been providing regular updates to parents and guardians about upcoming meetings," said Norton. "We want them to be aware that they have every opportunity to have their voices heard."

The next public meeting is set to take place Weds. Feb. 15 at St. Joseph CSS. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m

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## NEWS LOCAL

# Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario accommodation review committee 'on the same page' as board



By Lois Ann Baker, Cornwall Standard-Freeholder  
Thursday, February 9, 2017 3:12:36 EST PM



Bonnie Norton, John Cameron and Jack Ammendolia head up the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario's accommodation review committee team, which held its fourth working meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2017, in Cornwall, Ont.  
Lois Ann Baker/Cornwall Standard-Freeholder

Unlike at its public-board counterparts, the Catholic accommodation review committee for Cornwall's schools seems to be mostly in agreement with the proposed school closures.

Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario superintendent of school effectiveness John Cameron summarized the preferred options the committee chose to evaluate during its past three meetings.

"We looked at all the concerns and issues and we have summed it up in a number of points," said Cameron.

Cameron said the first point was regarding St. Joseph Catholic Secondary School. The committee agreed to maintain St Joe's with a couple of adjustments. This would mean a new junior kindergarten to Grade 6 school to replace Sacred Heart making St. Joe's a Grade 7-12 school.

"St. Joe's is the only high school in this board not on a Grade 7 to 12 model," said Cameron.

The decision to build a new St. Joe's was not considered to be a viable option, because the school already has large existing shop space and an auditorium that would be hard to replace based on the current ministry benchmark funding.

The second point was that Immaculate Conception will be closed and students redirected to St. Peter's and Bishop Macdonell as per the original staff report. Committee members had asked administration to look into sending all of Immaculate Conceptions students to just one school, but Cameron said both St. Peter's and Bishop Macdonell were too small to hold all of the transferred students without requiring expansions, so the boundaries had to be changed to accommodate this.

St. Columban's is slated to close and those students would be going to a new Sacred Heart School. The new school would either be built at the current location, or a new location will be considered. Cameron said they might also look into using an existing building that could be used for the new school.

Cameron said they would modify the current St. Anne's and Sacred Heart boundaries so students who live north of Highway 401 would not go to the new Sacred Heart.

St. Anne's would then be converted to a JK to Grade 6 facility and Grade 7 and 8s would be redirected to St. Joe's.

"(We will) convert Bishop Macdonell to a JK to Grade 6 facility with Grade 7 and 8 redirected to the existing St. Joe's," said Cameron. "(We will) accommodate the Grade 7 and 8s at St. Joe's through alternative space, this option is available. Or build an addition to the existing St. Joe's to accommodate the Grade 7 and 8s."

Boundaries for secondary school students would change to reflect the changes to the elementary school.

"So students from Bishop are not split into two sectors," said Cameron.

Cameron said they will continue to look into options for St. Matthew's Catholic Secondary School, including looking for an alternative location so the program could be expanded to include Grade 7 and 8s.

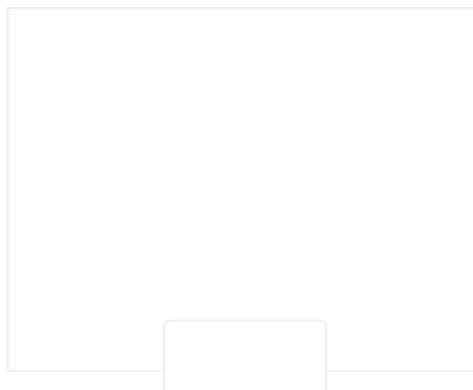
"After all the meetings we have had, this is what we are hearing from our committee," said Cameron. "I see a lot of heads nodding, that's a good sign. We are all on the same page."

The next public meeting will be held at St. Joe's on Feb. 15. The final ARC meeting will be held on Feb. 22.

Final delegations will be heard on April 4 and the final submission to the board will take place on May 2.

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## NEWS LOCAL

### Cornwall's Catholic school review has been seamless: board



By Todd Hambleton, Cornwall Standard-Freeholder  
Thursday, February 16, 2017 9:16:29 EST AM



John Cameron, the CDSBEO associate director of education and the superintendent of Cornwall schools, at the ARC public meeting for Cornwall schools, on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary.

Todd Hambleton/Cornwall Standard-Freeholder/Postmedia Network

What John Cameron called a “seamless” process sure went smoothly on Wednesday night.

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario’s accommodation review committee had its second and final public meeting for Cornwall schools, which was mostly a recap of what has happened so far.

About 35 people were in attendance at the cafeteria at St. Joseph’s Catholic Secondary School, many of them ARC members.

"It's been a very good process, I think our process has been relatively seamless," said Cameron, the CDSBEO associate director of education and the superintendent of Cornwall schools. "We've had a lot of good discussions, a lot of good dialogue, some very positive working meetings."

Cameron summarized the preferred options the committee chose to evaluate during a series of working meetings last week, the highlights being the maintaining of the current St. Joseph's, but with some adjustments that would make it a Grade 7-12 school, and a new Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 school to replace Sacred Heart.

"It's exciting, (the likelihood of) a new elementary school, (and) the expansion of St. Joseph's," said Cameron, the former St. Joseph's principal.

Consultant Jack Ammendolia, heading up the ARC team along with Cameron and Bonnie Norton, noted in his remarks that it will "be the trustees who make that final decision," and that the next step in the process is to determine if the ARC working committee needs to meet further.

Ammendolia added that "we're still accepting feedback, if there's something you want us to know. Email us, call your local trustee, put a suggestion (in the suggestion box)."

On April 4, the final public delegations to the board of trustees will be heard, and the final staff report to the board will take place on May 2.

"The proposed accommodation strategy option two of the initial staff report appears to be the ARC preference at this time," Ammendolia said.

Ammendolia noted that a key difference in the options is that the preferred one calls for an expansion of St. Joseph's, and not a new build. He explained that the current school has wide hallways, an auditorium and large shops, that "would be difficult in a new build to replace, based on existing ministry benchmark funding."

Ammendolia earlier in the meeting explained the need for consolidations, saying "total population growth in the city for a decade now has been pretty flat. . .the demographic trends, and actual enrolment for the board, paints a pretty clear picture that something needs to be done."

The proposal includes the closing of Immaculate Conception, with students redirected to St. Peter's and Bishop Macdonell.

And, St. Columban's is slated to close, with students redirected to a new Sacred Heart School, with the new school to be constructed at the current location, or at a different one, or at an already existing building.

Cameron indicated last week the current St. Anne's and Sacred Heart boundaries would be modified so students living north of Highway 401 could attend a new Sacred Heart. St. Anne's would then be converted to a JK to Grade 6 facility, with Grade 7 and 8 students redirected to St. Joseph's.

Bishop Macdonell would be converted to a JK to Grade 6 facility, with Grade 7 and 8 kids redirected to St. Joseph's.

And, options for St. Matthew's Catholic Secondary School include looking for an alternative location so that the program could be expanded to include Grade 7 and 8 students.

The CDSBEO says the goal of the public meetings held by the accommodation review committee and the working group meetings is to engage a wide range of school and community groups and gather feedback on the proposed accommodation options. The options were developed by staff, and will be presented to the board of trustees for its consideration.

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# Keep St. Joseph's high school, says feedback

🕒 February 18, 2017 👤 Editor 📁 Cornwall, News 💬 0



**Jack Ammendolia, a consultant for the Catholic school board, outlines recommendations for school consolidation in the Cornwall family of schools for the CDSBEO in Cornwall, Ont. on Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017. (Newswatch Group/Bill Kingston)**

CORNWALL – Feedback from the Catholic accommodation review committee (ARC) and the public is suggesting the Catholic board keep the existing St. Joseph's Secondary School.



That's even though it will cost almost \$8 million over then next five years to maintain.

St. Joseph's is in slightly worse condition than the rest of the CDSBEO schools and would need \$15.6 million in work. It should be noted that half of that upkeep (\$7.8 million) is to the General Vanier side of the school, which is owned by the Upper Canada District School Board.

The public and ARC input runs counter to the board's preferred plan of getting rid of St. Joe's and building a new grades 7-12 high school.

"I do know that initial reports showing dollars at a higher level to maintain this (St. Joe's) school. But I know through some of the ARC meetings, at the end of the day when the report comes back, we're optimistic that some savings would be found in other places. If the ARC recommends we maintain this school, and the board of trustees agrees to that, at that point we will have to make sure we find the funding to accommodate the plan," said Todd Lalonde, board chairman and Cornwall trustee, in an interview with Cornwall Newswatch.

Jack Ammendolia with consulting firm Watson and Associates was hired to carry out the school review.

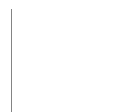
"Because of hallways, because of auditoriums, because of shops, it seemed that the willingness from the committee and the community was to retain those things for their secondary school students. It's not impossible (but) it's really unlikely you can replicate and mimic some things that the existing St. Joseph's has," Ammendolia told CNW.

He said the "overwhelming majority" of people in the (ARC) working meeting wanted to save the existing high school site on Cumberland Street.

The board is looking at eliminating 481 surplus pupil spaces that is costing the board around \$653,353 a year in lost revenue, based on CDSBEO calculations.

Members of the Accommodation Review Committee heard Wednesday night the proposed recommendation would see Immaculate Conception close and students would go to Bishop Macdonell and St. Peter.

St. Columban's and Sacred Heart would close and those students would be housed in a new JK-6 facility at the Sacred Heart site or an



alternative site.

Here are the rest of the recommendations:

- Convert St. Anne to a JK-6 facility, grades 7 and 8 would go to St. Joe's converted 7-12 school
- Boundary update so students for St. Anne and Sacred Heart, north of Highway 401, would go to new combined Sacred Heart-St. Columban's school
- Existing grade 7 and 8 students at Bishop Macdonell would go to St. Joe's
- St. Joe's conversion would take in grades 7 and 8 from St. Anne, Bishop Macdonell, Sacred Heart and St. Columban's either through alternative space or building an addition to the existing building
- High school boundaries for Holy Trinity and St. Joe's would be realigned to mirror elementary boundaries
- Look at options for St. Matthew CSS to allow expansion for grades 7 and 8.

The closures and consolidations, if approved, would happen from June 2018 through June 2019.



**St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School Principal Danny Conway and Catholic board chairman Todd Lalonde chat in Cornwall, Ont. Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017 prior to a meeting on the future of Cornwall schools. (Newswatch Group/Bill Kingston)**

Around 35 people were at the meeting – around two-thirds of the audience were ARC members.

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The process has been running so smoothly the ARC is deciding whether to even have another working meeting before a public delegations meeting on April 4. The school board will make its final decision May 2.

“From an insider’s view and someone who has done a lot of these ARCs, it’s been very smooth. I think a lot of that has to do with how the board has conducted itself. Has been very transparent and clear with the community,” Ammendolia said.

“I’m very pleased with the process,” chairman Lalonde added. “The way to succeed with this plan is to be open about that plan. The numbers (in the audience) aren’t substantial at this meeting and I’d like to think that it’s because people are agreeing with some of these proposals going forward.”

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