



“The Niagara Catholic District School Board, through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.”

MINUTES

Saint Michael Catholic and Saint Paul Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools

Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee

Loretto Catholic Elementary School, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School
and Father Hennepin Catholic Elementary School

**December 14, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

SAINT MICHAEL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Minutes of Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meeting for the Saint Michael Catholic and Saint Paul Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools of December 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Michael Catholic High School.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Trustee Nieuwesteeg.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was led by Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education.

2. Roll Call and Attendance

Committee Members		Present	Excused	Absent
Kathy Burtnik	Trustee	x		
Frank Fera	Trustee	x		
Ed Nieuwesteeg	Trustee	x		

Resources to Committee		Present	Excused	Absent
Ted Farrell	Superintendent of Education	x		
Scott Whitwell	Controller of Facilities Services	x		
Kathy Levinski	Administrator of Facilities Services	x		
Mary Gallardi	Recording Secretary	x		
Antonio Cardamone	Principal - Loretto Catholic	x		

Resources to Committee		Present	Excused	Absent
Amanda Cybula	Principal - Father Hennepin	x		
Elizabeth Davey	Principal - Our Lady of Mount Carmel	x		
CSC Chair/Co-Chair	Loretto Catholic	x		
CSC Chair/Co-Chair	Father Hennepin			x
CSC Chair/Co-Chair	Our Lady of Mount Carmel			x

The following staff were also in attendance:

Mark Lefebvre, Superintendent of Education; Christopher Moscato, Vice-Principal, Loretto Catholic Elementary School; Ken Griepsma, Principal, Saint Michael Catholic High School; Domenic Massi, Principal, (currently St. Gabriel Lalemant Catholic Elementary School) Principal, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School effective January 9, 2017.

24 members of the public also attended and signed in to the meeting.

B. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Superintendent Farrell reviewed the Terms of Reference for information. It was noted that the Terms of Reference initially suggested to “consider the impact of moving the French Immersion Program from Notre Dame.” Following public consultation on the issue, the decision was that the program would remain at Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School.

Superintendent Farrell indicated that all information is on the Board website and that all meetings were open to the public.

Superintendent Farrell presented a map of the current boundaries for each of the three schools.

C. MEETING SCHEDULE

Superintendent Farrell presented the Meeting Schedule for information. Superintendent Farrell indicated that all information obtained from the Public Meetings were brought back to the Committee for consideration.

D. REVIEW OF POTENTIAL ATTENDANCE AREA OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Superintendent Farrell presented a detailed map of the Loretto Boundary and reviewed the following options that were presented at previous meetings.

Option 1

Status Quo

Option 2

Area E1 to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School

Option 3

Areas E1 + E2 (A&B) to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School

Option 4

Areas E1 + E2B to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School

Option 5

All Out of Boundary Students Attending Loretto Catholic Returned to Home Schools

Option 6

Students bussed greater than 1.6 km from Loretto Catholic in areas W1 + E1 + E2 (A&B) to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School

Option 7

Open Option Discussion

Option 8

Return Out of Boundary Students from Garner South to Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Option 9

Students bussed greater than 1.6 km from from E1 & E2B to Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Option 10

Students bussed greater than 1.6 km from E1 & E2B + return out of boundary students to Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Option 11

Students bussed greater than 1.6 km from E1 & E2B + return all out of boundary students to home schools

Option 12

Build 7 classroom addition to Loretto Catholic

Option 13

Area of change from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic to Father Hennepin Catholic Elementary School

Option 14

Status Quo at Loretto Catholic and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary Schools with no consideration of new out of boundary requests at Loretto Catholic

Option 15

Area of change from Loretto Catholic to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School (part of E1 and part of E2) and

- No new out of boundary requests will be considered
- Current Grade 7 students will be grandfathered

Option 16

Area of change from Loretto Catholic to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School (part of W1/part of E1 & part of E2) and

- No new out of boundary requests will be considered
- Current Grade 7 students will be grandfathered

E. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Superintendent Farrell presented the following recommendations from the Committee that were discussed at the December 6, 2016 Committee Meeting.

Option 17 (combination of Option 13 and 15)

- Area of change from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School (Oldfield Estates) to Father Hennepin Catholic Elementary School
North Side – East from Dorchester Road at Oldfield Road along powerline to projection of Wilson Crescent,
East Side – South on projection of Wilson Crescent to Oldfield Road (including),
South Side – West along Oldfield Road (including) to Dorchester Road,
West Side – to point of start at Dorchester and Oldfield Road
- Area of change from Loretto Catholic to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School (part of E1 and part of E2) and
North Side – East from Kalar Road on Lundy's Lane (centreline) to Montrose Road,
East Side – South on Montrose Road (centreline) to Charnwood Avenue, south entrance (including),
South Side – West along Charnwood Avenue (including), turning north on Charnwood Avenue to Alfred Street, west on Alfred Street (including) to Sherri Avenue (including), north on Sherri Avenue to Ethel Street (including), west on Ethel Street to Pitton Road (including), north on Pitton Road to Catalina Street (including), west on Catalina Street to Kalar Road,
West Side – North on Kalar Road (including) to start at Lundy's Lane
- **No new out of boundary requests will be considered**
- **Current Grade 7 students at Loretto Catholic will be grandfathered**

Superintendent Farrell opened the floor for questions or comments.

No questions or comments from the public.

Option 18 (expands Option 17 to include the north west area of Loretto Catholic)

- **Area of change from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School (Oldfield Estates) to Father Hennepin Catholic Elementary School as described in Option 17**
- **Area of change from Loretto Catholic to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School (part of W1/part of E1 & part of E2)**
North Side – East from Garner Road (centerline) at Lundy's Lane (centerline) to Montrose Road (centerline),
East Side – South on Montrose Road (centreline) to Charnwood Avenue, south entrance, (including),
South Side – West along Charnwood Avenue (including), turning north on Charnwood Avenue to Alfred Street, west on Alfred Street (including) to Sherri Avenue (including), north on Sherri Avenue to Ethel Street (including), west on Ethel Street to Pitton Road (including), north on Pitton Road to Catalina Street (including), west on Catalina Street to Kalar Road (including), south on Kalar Road to Angie Drive (including), and including Mildred Court, south to St. Michael Avenue (including) to Forestview Blvd. (centerline) west to Garner Road (centerline),
West Side – North on Garner Road (centreline) to start at Lundy's Lane
- **No new out of boundary requests to Loretto Catholic will be considered**
- **Current Grade 7 students will be grandfathered**

Superintendent Farrell opened the floor for questions or comments.

Louie Cavezza, Loretto Catholic:

I'm currently out of bounds, I live on the other side of Lundy's Lane. Are Options 17 and 18 the only two proposals now being considered?

Superintendent Farrell:

We started with six options for the Committee and brought them to the public. Staff made changes and they were reviewed by the Committee and then new options were brought to the public. Following public input, staff made additional changes that the Committee considered. We are now considering Options 17 and 18, or some variation.

Neither Option 17 or 18 have students currently attending Loretto Catholic from outside of the school boundary return to their home school. Both options as written would require new students, not currently attending Loretto, attend their home school. Families in that situation would be required to make a choice. The new student will be required to attend Our Lady of Mount Carmel, for example, whereas the current siblings are permitted to remain at Loretto Catholic. Families would need to make the decision to either have current students remain at Loretto Catholic or keep the siblings together at Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Louie Cavezza, Loretto Catholic:

So under your current proposal everyone that is currently part of Loretto and part of that community and going to the school, are they being asked to move?

Superintendent Farrell:

As you can see from the review of the options considered, the thinking of the Committee evolved with public input and consideration by the Trustees. One of the early options, that provided relief to enrolment at Loretto Catholic was to have all students currently attending the school, living outside the school boundary, return to their home school; however, with input from the public and consideration by the Trustees, that was not an option that we wanted to continue to pursue because it ignored the human element of the families who are now part of the Loretto Catholic family. The families made application and went through the approval process with Principal Cardamone and subsequently received Superintendent approval. So the way things are written now, students who live outside the school boundary and currently attend Loretto Catholic are able to remain.

Charla Mannell, Loretto Catholic:

I have two children at Loretto in Grade 2 and ELKP 2 and I have one more that is due to register and I'm just wondering if it's all or nothing. Are there any compassionate reasons for allowing a new sibling to come into the school. I don't like to state my case publicly but I lost my husband. I use the daycare that I rely heavily on trying to make my life work. To change schools or disrupt our lives any further would be very hard on our family. I want the best for my kids and to be able to make our situation work. Is it an all or nothing or would it be possible for special consideration?

Superintendent Farrell:

I'm very sorry to hear your situation. This whole process is very, very difficult for families who may be affected. That is the purpose of meetings like this where we can hear input on the impact of potential decisions. We have a Committee Meeting immediately following this meeting tonight and we will take all this information and potentially revise the options we have presented. At the end of the day we do expect there will be some unhappy people with the recommendations. These are difficult situations and we certainly do want to be compassionate. In part we are in this predicament because we have been potentially too compassionate in considering individual family stories.

Trustee Nieuwesteeg:

I believe we spoke last week. We pride ourselves at Niagara Catholic, as a Board, that we have 22,000 individual stories. As I told you on the phone, nothing is etched in stone. We look at these things as Mr. Farrell just alluded to, on a case to case basis, but we want you to understand that we do have empathy for people in difficult situations, such as yours. I understand you are quite far out of boundary.

Charla Mannell, Loretto Catholic:

Yes I'm in boundary for a Welland school but I pay City of Niagara Falls taxes. Having my kids go to school in Welland is not an option. I am very frustrated right now and have to take things step by step.

Trustee Nieuwesteeg:

Nothing will be decided tonight. There are still further opportunities for public input. What you have seen and heard here tonight is the best thinking of the Committee considering the public input to this point. We started with six options and went up to sixteen. We went here, we went there. I want to praise the Committee. They have done their due diligence in terms of coming up with what we think are the best two options we can present to the public. We still have a little work to do before we can present the final recommendation to the Board. I don't want you to think that your concerns are going to fall on deaf ears because obviously they haven't. I am glad that you are able to come and share your story with us tonight.

Ben Abucay, Loretto Catholic:

I have two children in ELKP at Loretto. We made the choice to move here from the GTA to be closer to our family. We chose this specific community because of Loretto Catholic and Saint Michael. We did our research and built our house where our kids could go to these schools. It's a little disconcerting to see that we may have to go to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. There is nothing wrong with Carmel. I went to Carmel and it was a great school. We have a 3rd child that will be going to the same daycare that our others went to. We are hoping she will be able to attend Loretto in the future. We are in the W1 boundary right by Forestview and I just want to mention that. Were there any other considerations on the east side of Kalar Road and having them go to Carmel. Visually, as I look at it, they are closer to Carmel. I had no idea about the 1.6 boundary, but just visually and geographically they seem closer to Carmel. I was thinking that would make more sense.

Superintendent Farrell:

We did consider other areas east of Kalar Road. We had all of area E1 attending Our Lady of Mount Carmel in our first iteration. At our first Public Meeting at Loretto Catholic we were asked this as well. The issue with the east side of Kalar Road is that the majority of students are walkers. The Committee tried hard to not put existing walkers on a bus to a different school.

We certainly appreciate your comments about Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Our Lady of Mount Carmel is a gem of a school and it has thrived under the leadership of Principal Davey. We have an alumnus, Domenic Massi going to Carmel after Christmas, as Principal. His heart is there and he is committed to ensuring, as we all are, that the transition for students who move will be successful.

We did consider the area of W2 that qualifies for transportation. There may be concerns from people who reside in this area. We are aware that we are crossing the psychological barrier of Kalar Road which has three elementary schools east of Kalar Road. So, we are aware of it; however, based on public feedback we decided not to pursue other areas in part of E2 and E3 & E4. The Committee could not come up with a rationale to move these students.

Ben Abucay, Loretto Catholic:

I understand what you are saying. We live on Connor Crescent right. The second question, if Option 18 is chosen, so obviously I'm rooting for Option 17, there are going to be people wanting to applying to attend Loretto Catholic through the out of boundary process due to special circumstances. Could we ask to continue to attend Loretto? Is that a possibility?

Superintendent Farrell:

None of the options, as currently written, permits this.

Zak Rochon, Loretto Catholic:

On the list that showed number of people with the bus times. Who are these people?

Superintendent Farrell:

These are the families within the area of change from Loretto Catholic to Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Zak Rochon, Loretto Catholic:

So they are students who might have to move?

Superintendent Farrell:

Yes. The transportation options includes students in Option 17 and Option 18 that are affected by proposed areas of change. The options don't include students who currently attend Loretto Catholic from outside of the existing boundary.

Ben Abucay, Loretto Catholic:

So if we become out of boundary, we have to change schools right?

Superintendent Farrell:

Yes.

Ben Abucay, Loretto Catholic:

So if Option 18 is chosen we become out of bounds, can we apply as out of boundary, will we have the option to apply as out of bounds?

Superintendent Farrell:

That is not the way it is currently written but we will bring that input and we will discuss it at the meeting right after this one.

Trustee Nieuwesteeg:

One of the reasons we have this predicament at Loretto is that currently we have 95 out of boundary students attending Loretto, which is a huge number percentage wise relative to the overall population of the school. It is a monster that grew over the years because we have allowed that. One of the things that we as a committee need to look at is how to stem the flow of out of boundary students into the school because if we allow it to continue the problem will just be exacerbated and in three or four years from now we could have a thousand students at Loretto; that is not going to serve any of you or any of the children. We need to find a way to address that.

Trustee Burtnik:

The rationale for the Committee not to have that as a recommendation is that we know how difficult it will be for the Principal to look at all these families, knowing them, as he knows the stories, puts an awful lot of pressure on him to say yes to some and no to others. The problem never gets solved. It would be unfair for the principal to have to answer yes or no. We felt we would take that responsibility. Maybe we move it to the Superintendent level or look at a different process. I think everybody would agree that it would be unfair to the current Principal to answer yes or no to your personal requests for out of boundary status.

Dave Cristelli, Loretto Catholic:

I noticed two of Guiding Principles that you outlined at the beginning of your presentation are minimal movement of students and minimal community disruption. As I look at proposal 18 it disrupts more students in terms of movement and it disrupts communities more. I live right on the boundary of the walking area in W1. We are like five feet inside of it. Having my 3 year old attend a different school than my 6 and 8 year old next year would be a challenge on a variety of levels. In terms of dividing the family and having us make a decision, they go to the neighbourhood park they won't be playing with the neighbourhood kids that they go to school with. As part of a community they will be separated by three major intersections, Kalar, Montrose and Dorchester, in order to get from home to school. So those are all challenges. Looking at the projections the Board has the ultimate goal to have all schools fully attended which would allow for a new school to be built in the area as growth continues. Projections for, both for Option 17 and 18 get the schools full; however, proposal 18 disrupts more students and more families. Since they both end up accomplish the same goal in 2020-21 then the one that disrupts the least amount of people seems to be the better step forward, which is Option 17.

Superintendent Farrell:

I appreciate your comments. Some of the Guiding Principles do in fact conflict with the Terms of Reference as far as aligning the enrolment at Loretto Catholic. For example, our Guiding Principle of trying to disrupt as few as possible conflicts with the Term of Reference to align student enrolment to capacity at Loretto Catholic. Unfortunately there will be some disruption as we try to balance the Terms with the Guiding Principles. We will ensure there is a good transition plan for those students that are affected by the final recommendation. We appreciate your input.

Louie Cavezza, Loretto Catholic:

I just want to reiterate, current out of boundary students under this proposal are they staying where they are? I'm on the other side of Lundy's Lane and the children currently have permission to attend Loretto Catholic as out of boundary students. Under this proposal are we safe?

Superintendent Farrell:

As it is currently written, for students that are currently attending Loretto and live outside the boundary, yes.

Zak Rochon, Loretto Catholic:

Using that example, one of the earlier scenarios was that current approved out of boundary students wouldn't have to move. When you change the boundaries, we become out of boundary and all of sudden now our kids have to change schools. So already out of boundary families don't have to change schools too?

Superintendent Farrell:

Existing out of boundary families that have already gone through the application process to attend Loretto Catholic from out of boundary that have been approved with our options for 17 and 18 would not be asked to change. The ones that would be affected would be in those areas of change that we have proposed.

Zak Rochon, Loretto Catholic:

So just the families that are in boundary now that become out of boundary with the change have to leave? So the only comment I would add to that is, in agreeing with wise gentlemen in the front, I think the least disruption would be Option 17. At least that way that children play within their community, so if you are drawing lines my comment would be that I think that children that play together should probably go to school together.

Superintendent Farrell:

Thank you.

Danielle Perrotta, Loretto Catholic:

I'm in W1. For the kids that are bussed, are you looking at the bussed children in that area or just the ones that are walking?

Superintendent Farrell:

We have included students that are currently bussed and also some students who walk. All of the students would now qualify for transportation to Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Danielle Perrotta, , Loretto Catholic:

I agree that Option 17 is less disruptive. I live a two minute drive to Loretto and it makes no sense. I have 3 kids at Loretto, one in Grade 8, one in ELKP and one coming in September. I don't need this disruption so I'm for Option 17 and I hope 17 sticks.

Mike Lambert, Loretto Catholic:

We have a 3 year old who is registered to attend Loretto Catholic next September. About a year and a half ago we moved into the E2 area on your map to Armstrong Drive. We are within the current Loretto Catholic boundary. When we purchased we did our due diligence on that and now we are being told we will need to move to Mount Carmel. Some of the reasons we wanted to go to Loretto Catholic were so that they could go to school with their cousins and get daycare. Can you tell me about the daycare options at Mount Carmel? As I understand it, there isn't a daycare there. If we do go to Mount Carmel, with the other young families, would a daycare option be provided?

Kathy Levinski, Administrator of Facilities:

Currently the students at Our Lady of Mount Carmel are bussed to Father Hennepin for childcare.

Mike Lambert, Loretto Catholic:

I don't like that option.

Kathy Levinski, Administrator of Facilities:

The reason that childcare is provided that way is there was insufficient interest in childcare by the other families at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We are pursuing having a childcare provider there and have talked to the Director of Childcare Services at the Region. We are talking to childcare providers and are trying to get before and after school childcare there for this September.

Mike Lambert, Loretto Catholic:

Can you make that part of the option? It's pretty difficult to agree to go to a school not knowing if there is a day care provided.

Kathy Levinski, Administrator of Facilities:

There currently is a childcare option at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The child would be bussed from Father Hennepin to Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the morning.

We will put out surveys to gauge interest in childcare being provided at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We have your input on childcare. We are working on it. It is important that when you are surveyed that you request childcare at the school. That is the information we rely on and what childcare providers go by.

Trustee Nieuwesteeg:

Maybe you can touch on the numbers that are required.

Kathy Levinski:

In order for a childcare provider to have a viable program, they require a minimum of 15 children in the morning and 15 children in the afternoon on a regular basis. Providers are not for profit and need to have enough children to make their business work. Obviously more is better but they have to have a minimum of 15 to consider.

Lindsey Horton, Loretto Catholic:

I've missed previous meetings. I don't know if I'm out of line going here but have non-Catholic children been addressed at all? Have we looked at that yet? Have non-Catholics leave before Catholics?

Superintendent Farrell:

The option was not brought up by Board staff nor was it suggested at any of the public meetings. Children of Catholic parents have the right to attend. Non-Catholics apply to attend the school through the same application process we use for out of boundary students.

All parents want the best possible education for their children and they seek schools that are able to do that. Our Catholic schools are exceptional and families see that and want to be a part of it. Loretto Catholic is no exception. In part, it is a victim of its own success. Some of the enrolment pressure is created by out of boundary students, some of whom are non-Catholic. These students are part of the Loretto Catholic family. It is not something that we would now want to do, remove a child who is there based on religion.

Danielle Perrotta, Loretto Catholic:

They why do you ask for a Baptismal Certificate when you have to register if there is no religion? Why do you do that?

Superintendent Farrell:

Children of parents who are Catholic have the right to attend Catholic schools. That is why we ask for the certificate.

Danielle Perrotta, Loretto Catholic:

So we have no priority out of the non-Catholics? It's a Catholic School.

Trustee Burtnik:

The Committee has not discussed this. I'm going out on a limb and just expressing my own personal opinion here rather than the opinion of the Committee. The next step with that line of thinking would be to ask for your Parish involvement as far as the Catholicity as a Catholic. I think we would be going down a slippery road for us to start judging others based on anyone's faith, whether they have been baptised or whether they participate in Mass or all of those things.

It is not something the Committee would engage in. The out of boundary process relies on our policy. We have the right of refusal in the elementary school if they are non-Catholic. The notion of us refusing to share our spiritually with any person who is a child of God is not something we would contemplate doing. Does that answer your question?

Danielle Perrotta, Loretto Catholic:

Yes

Jim Karagiannis, Loretto Catholic:

Option 17 removes roughly 35 kids correct? Option 18 removes 82 kids. We are disrupting all the kids that are in bounds now and we are keeping the kids that are out of bounds. Is that correct?

Superintendent Farrell:

Current students who have gone through the out of boundary process are permitted to remain.

Jim Karagianni, Loretto Catholics:

So we are taking kids that are a further distance away from the school and kids that are already attending we are taking out?

Superintendent Farrell:

In both of the suggested options, the only students affected are the students that are currently within the Loretto Catholic current boundary.

Jim Karagiannis:

Option 18 has how many kids we are taking out?

Superintendent Farrell:

There are 82 students that are affected.

Jim Karagiannis, Loretto Catholic:

So we are taking 82 kids that are in boundary out of boundary and the ones that are out of boundary we are keeping them, it doesn't make sense.

Superintendent Farrell:

Is there a question there?

Jim Karagiannis, Loretto Catholic:

It makes no sense, makes no sense at all. You are taking kids that are close to the school and pushing them away and the ones that are further away you are not moving. Makes no sense.

Superintendent Farrell:

We have gone through several options leading to Option 17 and Option 18. This is not an easy process and regardless of what we do there are going to be unhappy parents. We currently have over 90 students attending Loretto Catholic from out of boundary. The impression that current enrolment pressure is due entirely to students coming from out of boundary is mistaken. There are currently 58 students from within the Loretto Catholic boundary that leave, so we have a net effect of just over 40 students that put pressure on the school.

Kevin Olesen, Loretto Catholic:

Building off Jim's comment, what would the rationale be for retaining the current out of boundary students while eliminating some current inbound students? Is it because of the application process? What's the rationale to maintain those students?

Superintendent Farrell:

Those students who have applied to attend Loretto Catholic have provided their story to either the Principal or Vice-Principal. They have been accepted for a particularly unique reason and those family stories have been heard and those families have been granted admission to the Loretto Catholic.

Tonight we discussed how the thinking of the Committee evolved. Early in the process that option was on the table and was then removed. Remember we have enrolment pressure that is not entirely coming from outside of the Loretto boundary. Remember that within the boundary, everything east of Kalar Road puts the school above capacity. We are within 10 students of having the school full within the boundary west of Kalar Road. If we look at the boundary differently and go north, the school is full without the enrolment from W1, E1 and E2B. Everything south of that fills the school up. There is tremendous enrolment pressure coming from within the boundary as well.

Jim Karagiannis, Loretto Catholic:

So we are moving 57 families? Fifty-seven families and you think they don't have stories as well?

Superintendent Farrell:

Every family has a story. Every child has a story.

Jim Karagiannis, Loretto Catholic:

And at the end of the day both schools with your move are going to be over capacity. Good job.

Superintendent Farrell:

At the end of the day, yes, the schools will be full.

The Garner South area over the long term there will put enrolment pressure at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We are projecting to see over 400 students from that area attend Niagara Catholic schools. We see that area as being able to sustain its own elementary school. This enrolment pressure will be relieved with the construction of a new school. Until we allocate our resources to the point where we have filled all of the schools in the area we are not able to apply

for any capital funding. The same would hold for an application for an addition to Loretto Catholic.

Dave Cristelli, Loretto Catholic:

In order to apply for funding to get another school, the third school-when I say the third school I mean Carmel plus Loretto plus the third, to get that third school built is the requirement that both Loretto and Carmel be at 100% capacity or do they have to be over capacity. What is the threshold?

Superintendent Farrell:

You need to actually have the students in there. It is not based solely on projections. You have to have enrolment pressures at schools and you have to be able to show that over the long term that enrolment pressure will continue. Neighbouring schools need to be close to full.

Dave Cristelli, Loretto Catholic:

Do you have a sense of what threshold you would need to meet in order to prove that or demonstrate that to the Ministry in order to get funding?

Trustee Nieuwesteeg:

The threshold or target, I think, is approximately 90%, so you have to have pretty much 90% capacity in all the schools before the Ministry would even consider looking at an application to build a new school. But that is not our primary focus here. Our primary focus is not to build a new school. I want everyone here to know that. We have a problem at Loretto Catholic that we need to address, a very large problem as you all know and that is our first priority. The funding from the Ministry, if and when that comes, will take several years. We can't begin to do that until we demonstrate that we have eliminated the enrolment pressure at Loretto and we have equalized some of the enrolment across the south Niagara elementary schools. But 90%, I believe, is pretty much the target.

Dave Cristelli, Loretto Catholic:

Is it possible to see difference in projections between Option 17 and 18 so we can get a better sense of what the differences are?

Superintendent Farrell:

Option 18, in 2020-21 would have Loretto Catholic with 514 students at 131%. The school remains overcapacity. Our Lady of Mount Carmel, which is a larger facility with two gyms and a Chapel is projected to have 598 students, that would leave it around 120%. And we currently have Father Hennepin operating at 90% and the small change we made from Oldfield that will help to ensure that that school continues to remain at that level.

At the point when we do make an application to the Ministry, the Ministry will say that the Board has done a decent job equalizing enrolment between neighbouring schools. With status quo and continuing to let out of boundary students in, if we went to the Ministry with Loretto sitting at 800 students the Ministry would say "That's nice but you have space over there and you need to get that filled up."

Dave Cristelli, Loretto Catholic:

And what would Option 17 project out as?

Superintendent Farrell:

Loretto Catholic 566 students at 144% and Our Lady of Mount Carmel 545 at 108%.

Dave Cristelli, Loretto Catholic:

It would seem to me though that Option 18 results in two schools being overpopulated by a significant amount. Option 17 doesn't, you've got one school overpopulated to a significant amount. Based on the community response and concerns over disruption of the community and students, the hope is that you would take Option 17 as greater consideration given that there has been no objection to it, at least in this forum today.

Superintendent Farrell:

Thank you.

Zak Rochon, Loretto Catholic:

Just wondering, what is the impact on the projected number of students when you shrink the boundary in Option 17? Over time you are letting less and less students in at Loretto. Was that considered?

Superintendent Farrell:

Yes, it was. The Ministry has given boards the legal authority to determine school boundaries so that they can effectively plan and deal with accommodation pressures. The difficulty with out of boundary students coming into a school is that they are not factored into the enrolment projections. This makes it very difficult to plan from an accommodations' perspective. So new students from out of boundary are not factored into these numbers nor are students who are currently within the boundary that would be changing schools to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Those students have been removed from the Loretto Catholic enrolment figures but included in Our Lady of Mount Carmel projections.

Zak Rochon, Loretto Catholic:

Right, okay, thanks.

Trustee Fera:

I would like to make a positive statement here. I trust that you as parents understand that the Committee attempted to provide the greatest happiness to the greatest number of students that are affected. At the end of the day we hope that your children will continue to receive a Catholic education regardless of the school that they attend. Children are resilient and will adapt to new surroundings making new friends easily. If it is any consolation, you will be glad to know that we have transferred one of our finest principals to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, to replace also a fine Principal, Ms. Davey who is retiring. The new Principal is Mr. Massi, he is a product of Our Lady of Mount Carmel as a former student and teacher. He is a devoted and dedicated principal who will look after your children with care and compassion. He is the former Principal of Mary

Ward school and his reputation precedes him. As indicated by Mr. Farrell, Mr. Massi is here this evening and you may want to speak with him if you so desire. Thank you.

Kevin Olesen, Loretto Catholic:

I think there maybe some value in maybe describing some more of the physical and cultural good points of the prospective schools these students will be moving to. Perhaps there is not a lot of knowledge of what is being offered there and it might be helpful.

Trustee Nieuwesteeg:

Thank you for that point. At previous meetings we had Principal Cybula, Principal Davey and Principal Cardamone speak about their schools. We can have them give an overview now.

Principal Davey, Our Lady of Mount Carmel:

Our Lady of Mount Carmel was built in 1965 and has been very well maintained over the 51 years. It has four brand new ELKP classrooms. The intermediate wing for Grade 7 and 8 classes has brand new classrooms with Smartboards and whiteboards, two gymnasiums, wide hallways, and two sets of bathrooms. I have been in an administration for 18 years. The students that attend the school, love the school and their teachers. Outside they have a large blacktop and play space, brand new kiss-and-ride, and a dedicated bus zone. It is a very beautiful facility.

St. Thomas More Church is right across the parking lot. The children go there once a week and the Priests come to the school and celebrate a service in the school's Chapel. The school has a lot of advantages.

I know this is a difficult thing for you. As a parent I would prefer to have my children in a classroom rather than a portable. Kids are very resilient and they adapt very well and the kids at Our Lady of Mount Carmel will be very accepting of them.

Superintendent Farrell:

If you go to the Board website we have the slide decks from our first two Public Meetings on November 9th and 10th posted. We have a comparison of the three schools in terms of washroom information, locker information, portables and room for portables. You will see that much of their Loretto Catholic has used up much of their play space. Students there also get less gym time.

Principal Cybula, Father Hennepin Catholic Elementary School:

I agree with what Liz has mentioned on how students are very resilient and making sure your children are learning in school. Father Hennepin is also another extraordinary school. We have the Ontario Early Years Centre, the YMCA Daycare, a kitchen that provides for our Breakfast Club. We have a fantastic staff, an enormous playground, and technology in our schools. It is a very friendly community. As a team we will work very closely to make sure that the transition for affected students is seamless. I hope this helps with some of your concerns. Our Lady of Mount Carmel has a wonderful facility too and if you are worried about it you should go visit the school.

Principal Cardamone, Loretto Catholic Elementary School

We have some challenges with respect to lockers. We have 635 students in a school built for 392. We have 285 students in portables. That number is higher than the enrolment of 27 of our elementary schools. We do have line ups for a washrooms. At Our Lady of Mount Carmel it is one washroom for 13 students at Loretto Catholic we have one washroom for 32 students. A big disadvantage for Loretto Catholic students is the gym time. At Our Lady of Mount Carmel they have two gyms and there are many open periods for gym time. For parking we have people who are parking around the corner and in fire lanes. We do not have adequate parking here.

Superintendent Farrell:

Despite all the challenges at Loretto Catholic they make it work. Each of the schools are wonderful schools. The transition will be well thought out and start in February to make sure that the transition will be very smooth.

F. OTHER

G. FUTURE ACTION

Trustee Nieuwesteeg outlined upcoming meeting dates and highlighted the upcoming Report to the Committee of the Whole on January 17, 2017 and the Board Meeting on January 31, 2017.

Trustee Nieuwesteeg indicated that no decision has been made.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meeting for the Saint Michael Catholic and Saint Paul Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools of December 14, 2016 be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.