



“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

**November 9, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

LORETTO CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY 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 November 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Loretto Catholic Elementary 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	Manager 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, Family of Schools Superintendent of Education; Christopher Moscato, Vice-Principal, Loretto Catholic Elementary School; Ken Griepsma, Principal, Saint Michael Catholic High School.

Thirty-four members of the public also attended and signed the attendance to the meeting.

B. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Superintendent Farrell presented 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.

C. MEETING SCHEDULE

Superintendent Farrell presented the Meeting Schedule for information.

D. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Kathy Levinski and Superintendent Farrell provided background information pertaining to the identified schools in the Attendance Area Review from the June 21, 2016 Board Report: Father Hennepin Catholic Elementary School, Loretto Catholic Elementary School and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School.

The current boundaries map for each school were shared in addition to the potential students living in each elementary school boundary.

A catchment summary for Loretto Catholic, Father Hennepin and Our Lady of Mount Carmel was provided showing students who are currently attending a Niagara Catholic school. Also included was information on out of boundary students.

Enrolment Projections were reviewed for each of the three schools.

An Education Development Charge, which is used to purchase land and develop school sites, was reviewed as it relates to south Niagara Falls.

Kathy Levinski reviewed the areas that are being planned for development in south Niagara Falls:

- The Garner South Plan has approximately 2700 units approved by the city of Niagara Falls. The area is projected to result in close to 400 students attending a Niagara Catholic Elementary School.
- The Oldfield subdivision was reviewed. The area is currently split between Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School and Father Hennepin Catholic Elementary School. Thundering Waters is in the early planning stages and will ultimately affect enrolment in both the Father Hennepin and Our Lady of Mount Carmel boundary areas.

E. ATTENDANCE AREA OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Option 1 – Status Quo

Principal Cardamone presented the current issues at Loretto Catholic, Superintendent Farrell presented the current issues at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Principal Cybula presented the current issues at Father Hennepin.

Kathy Levinski spoke about the child care program at Loretto, Father Hennepin and Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Kathy encouraged parents to sign up for childcare on the Onelist in order for the Board to determine if there is viability for childcare in the school.

Comments/Input/Feedback:

David Corfield, Father Hennepin:

Just wondering why did you close down St. Thomas More School if you are having such issues here? Why are we in this panic mode?

Trustee Nieuwesteeg:

St. Thomas More was vastly underutilized and we essentially had two schools basically on the same site. When we needed to get the enrolment up at Our Lady of Mount Carmel with the addition that the Ministry funded, it didn't make sense to us to keep St. Thomas More essentially on the same site. When the Ministry looks at funding, they look at utilization of classroom space and it works against you if you have unused classrooms in a school. The Ministry actually penalizes you if have unused classrooms.

David Corfield, Father Hennepin:

I'm getting the impression here so far that you are going to shuttle kids from this school to Father Hennepin or Mount Carmel, is that correct?

Trustee Nieuwesteeg:

The intention, or how it plays out in the end is as Superintendent Farrell alluded to a few minutes ago is that the enrolment here at Loretto is way beyond the capacity of the school. It is incumbent upon us as a school board to do something, acknowledging the great work that Mr. Cardamone and Mr. Moscato are doing to serve the students here to the best of our ability. We have 600 plus students in a school that was built for 400 students. You also heard from Ms. Cybula and Mr. Farrell about the facilities at the other schools, including a double gymnasium at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. I don't know if you had a chance to look at those other schools but both schools are fabulous

facilities. What we are trying to do is minimize the impact we are going to have on school communities but really it is our job as a committee to come up with ways to alleviate the pressure that Loretto Catholic is feeling right now. Mr. Farrell will present some of the options. Something has to be done and we do have to do something soon.

David Corfield, Father Hennepin:

I was trying to suggest that you already had a school available for these students which wouldn't have had any any impact and you shut down that school.

Trustee Nieuwesteeg:

St. Thomas More was a JK to Grade 3 school. It wasn't a JK to Grade 8 School so it was fairly easy for us to make the transition over to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We are in a catch-22 situation here with the surplus space in some of the south Niagara schools. Loretto parents are living this right now with the issues related to washrooms and gym time. Our goal is to minimize the disruption and the effects of overcrowding on the school and community. Children are going to benefit from the move and I hope that you don't think of it as a detrimental situation. All I can tell you from past experience, and I've been on the Board for a very long time, is that this is never an easy decision. Our job is not to disrupt families or students and cause anxiety; that is not something that we want. It is a function of demographics and demographics that we have to deal with.

Trustee Burtnik:

I would like to point out that St. Thomas More was a JK to Grade 3 School and then it became one family in joining Our Lady of Mount Carmel under one roof. The Board is trying to model keeping families together from JK to Grade 8 rather than in two separate schools. There is going to be a conversation taking place in Thorold shortly as they have a JK to 3 school and a Grade 4 to 8 school. Families have asked us to give consideration to consolidation because it is very difficult for mom, dads and caregivers to be actively involved in two school communities. That is part of the rationale that the St. Thomas More decision was made.

Option 2 – Area E1 to Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Kathy Levinski and Superintendent Farrell presented Option 2

Comments/Input/Feedback:

Catie Sirie, Loretto:

I want to know that for each of the options you are looking at are you considering the same percentage of out of bounds students per year?

Superintendent Farrell:

Students that are out of bounds are counted in the projections for the school that they are currently attending. Future students are projected to attend their resident school: that is, they are allocated to the school that they should be going to.

Kathy Levinski:

When we provide the number of out of bound students we are using this year's numbers.

Sandra Elia, Loretto:

The kids that you were just talking about being moved are those kids currently bussed to Loretto?

Superintendent Farrell:

Some are bussed and some are walkers. Area E1 includes the whole area, not just bussed students.

Option 3 – Areas E1 + E2 (A&B) to Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Superintendent Farrell presented Option 3

Comments/Input/Feedback:

Lucy Ioannoni, Loretto:

Is the goal to reduce enrolment at Loretto to its capacity?

Superintendent Farrell:

If we were to go back to the Terms of Reference for the committee, one of the goals is to try to align the enrolment with the facility size at Loretto Catholic. If we were to solely focus on that, we require approximately 220 students move from Loretto Catholic. We don't have 220 pupil spaces at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. All we would be doing is moving students from a portable here to another portable over there. The best case scenario is that we reduce, as best we can, the enrolment pressure here from 160%. We are going to need to get to a point where Our Lady of Mount Carmel is getting close to 100%. Are we going to get to 100% capacity at Loretto? I don't see that as being one of the options as we go from one portable city to another portable city. We are trying to be fair to all school communities. We are looking long term at essentially having 15 portables between the three schools. We don't feel it's fair to have them all at one school.

Derek Szolucha, Loretto:

I did not understand the piece about the the cost of moving or adding portables here?

Superintendent Farrell:

If we were to add portables here, in the near future we need to upgrade the electrical system due to the increased load. The cost of doing so could run anywhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000. That is in addition to the cost of the portable and having it transported to the site.

David Woods, Loretto:

What level of enrolment are you trying to get Loretto down to? Earlier on you were discussing the opportunity for children for exercise, for staff to gather. What level does

Loretto need to get down to provide a similar environment for the staff and students across all three schools?

Superintendent Farrell:

Ideally we need to get each school to 100% capacity. That is not possible just with the number of children that reside in the catchment areas. What we are working towards is to try provide the same quality programs to all three school communities.

Trustee Burtnik:

I don't know that there is a magic number. This is the really great problem to have for Catholic Education. We have so many kids that want to experience the quality of education in all three of our schools that we're discussing here. I would hope all of our schools would be at 100% at some point. We all know that as soon as we build a school we are overcrowded, that's just the way it is. The government only funds for those pupils that you absolutely know are certain that they are coming so that the disconnect between what we know what is going to happen and what the government funds for the build of a school.

I think what we are really trying to do is balance the schools so that all of our schools are at least at capacity so that if we continue to see the enrolment grow through projections, through the growing community in this area that we have to build another Catholic School. It is not a matter of continually putting portables on top of portables on this site. This particular location is the hot spot due to demographics. This is where the development is and if we knew when we built Loretto what we now know we still would have only been funded for the size that Loretto currently is. We couldn't have built for more at the time than we were funded.

There is no magic number. As far as getting Loretto closer, and bring the others closer or even just slightly over the hundred, to give students in the area the same opportunities to experience all the good things in program and for our staff to have the same opportunity to engage in professional dialogue with colleagues, etc. etc.

Trustee Nieuwesteeg:

Just a follow up to that so you don't think we are being short sighted. As Kathy mentioned, we are only allowed to build schools based on what the government says the size of the school should be. If we were able to build based on our projections and what we thought was going to happen, Saint Michael Catholic High School would have been a lot bigger from the start. When we closed Saint Michael on Valley Way, there were only 800 students enrolled so we were funded to build a high school to house 800 students. A lot of people saw that right away we were putting portables on the property and said we should have thought about that and built a bigger school. Unfortunately, as Kathy mentioned we could only build for what the government allowed.

I'm sure all of you have an appreciation for the problem that we are struggling with but at the end of day want to do what's best for the majority of our kids, and we want to make sure that whatever decision we come to that the parents can live with and the school communities can live with it. That is really the goal of the committee.

Jason Cukierski, Loretto:

Just in terms of realistically changing the boundaries, if the boundaries aren't shifted then a new school will not be built. Is that the bottom line?

Superintendent Farrell:

When the Board applies for funding for a new school the Ministry takes a look at space available in nearby schools. Here we have space at two schools close to Loretto Catholic. The Ministry wants to see school boards using their resources efficiently. We need to address available space nearby before we can apply for funding for a new school, that option is years down the road.

David Corfield, Father Hennepin:

Loretto is not the only school with this issue. Forestview is having the issue too. Can we push to take over Kate S. Durdan which is attached?

Superintendent Farrell:

No, we are not able to take over Kate S. Durdan. It is the growth in the area that is creating the pressure.

Frank Mancuso, Loretto:

My kids are out of bounds and grandfathered in. Are students still going to be allowed to do this and why wasn't this brought up in 2010?

Trustee Burtnik:

When we look at the notion of out of boundary it's strictly for mapping right now. When you are a student at Loretto Catholic it doesn't anymore matter where you live. You are a student and you are part of the community. We want to dispel the notion that the easy answer, mathematically, is to send all those out of boundary kids back to their home school. This is their home school right now.

Frank Mancuso, Loretto:

Is there an Option 6?

Trustee Burtnik:

There is. We have to consider every option. If we didn't then we wouldn't be doing our due diligence. But the notion of an out of boundary is for the mapping purposes. We cannot capture them as a dot within the boundaries. When you are a student at Niagara Catholic and you are given a letter of permission to attend a school, outside of the school boundary you live in, you become a part of that community. One of the options we need to look at is, do we send everybody to their home school? This is your home school right now. When we considered this and everyone was grandfathered we knew there would be a point in time that we had to look at it again, and this is that point in time. We couldn't fix it then and we are not going to be able to fix it 100% right now because this

community, this neighbourhood is busting and thank God it's busting with kids that want to come to a Catholic School.

We are very aware that right here, right next door there is an option. Your decision will be is Catholic education the thing that you value most? If so, you will work with us in whatever difficult decision we have to make. We really hope that your first priority is for you to have your child educated in a Catholic School and that it simply isn't just a matter of convenience for you. I think I've gone a little further than where you wanted me to go but I wanted to make the point clear that it is very important to all of us and to our Board.

Trustee Nieuwesteeg:

Just a further point with respect to out of boundary students, one thing we pride ourselves on as a Board is that every student and family situation is looked at individually. Out of boundary situations are looked at for compassionate reasons, for example child care needs or single parent families. Every child in Niagara Catholic has a story and we like to think that we listen to that and does that cause problems for us, yes.

As Kathy had alluded to, it's easy to say every out of boundary student go to their in bound school but every child in our system has a story and it is incumbent upon us as a Catholic School Board to look at all these stories and say this child needs to be here for this or that reason. If you look at out of boundary numbers there are 95 out of boundary students currently attending Loretto Catholic which is a huge number, probably the highest number in all of our elementary schools. I just want you to be aware of that, that as a Board we look at it from a compassionate standpoint.

Superintendent Farrell:

Just to pick up on that point, the 95 out of boundary students attending Loretto is mitigated by a number of students who live in Loretto Catholic boundary but attend other schools. The net effect is approximately 30 students. It is not the out of boundary students are not the sole cause of enrolment pressure at Loretto Catholic.

Option 4 – Areas E1 + E2B to Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Superintendent Farrell presented Option 4.

Comments/Input/Feedback:

No questions on this scenario.

Option 5 – All Out of Boundary Students Attending Loretto Catholic Returned to Home Schools

Superintendent Farrell presented Option 5.

Comments/Input/Feedback:

No questions on this scenario.

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

Superintendent Farrell presented Option 6.

Comments/Input/Feedback:

No questions on this scenario.

Option 7 – Open Option Discussion

Trustee Nieuwesteeg:

Catholic School Council Chairs act as a resource to the committee. If you have any questions you can direct them to the Chairs and they will make sure that whatever feedback you provide will be brought to our next committee meeting.

Sabrin Fabbro, Co-Chair Loretto:

We can all agree that not acting is not an option. Status quo is not an option and a decision needs to be made. It is a difficult decision but there are options and we are here to discuss what the other options could possibly be.

Trustee Nieuwesteeg:

The process from here moving forward, there will be further discussion between the committee and it is open to the public. All of you are invited to attend any of the meetings that we have and there will be a further public consultation on the plan to have something enacted in early January. It seems like a fairly tight time frame but the mandate of the committee is to come up with some kind of solution or resolution before the next school year so that's what we are trying to do and in fairness to the parents and the school communities we have to get that information to them so they can make appropriate plans for their children for next year.

Catie Sirie, Loretto:

Is the reason we are not considering sending some of the Loretto students to Father Hennepin solely due to transportation time?

Superintendent Farrell:

We did make reference to the Oldfield Estates development earlier. The area is currently designated to both Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Father Hennepin. One-half of this area has just begun construction and the other side of the development has just been serviced. It makes sense to us to have these students attend Father Hennepin and increase the size of its boundary. This would support an increase in enrolment at Father Hennepin and reduce the enrolment pressure due to growth at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. That was one of the questions that we need to address.

Lindsay Jones, Loretto:

I live in the Imagine area. I will be registering my child for school in November of this year. When will the decision take effect?

Superintendent Lefebvre:

By policy we are over capacity at Loretto. You can put an out of boundary application in and we would consider it but because the numbers are so large at Loretto there would have to be extraordinary circumstances.

Lindsay Jones, Loretto:

Regarding daycare at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, has there been consideration to offering it there? That really is my main concern.

Kathy Levinski:

You will receive information at registration regarding childcare and you will need to sign up on Onelist and indicate where you want to go. At Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School last year there was no child care, but numbers came in showing there was a need. Consequently, they were able to get a child care provider at the school.

If we show support for a child care, demonstrate need and have the numbers we can work something out in the end. We will continue to work with our partners and the Ministry to find ways to to accommodate. We do this on a continual basis with all of our schools.

Dan Cuvillo, Loretto:

Have they looked at putting an addition on this building?

Superintendent Farrell:

With our current projections, we feel there will be sufficient growth in south Niagara Falls so that once we equalize enrolment across the schools we will be in a very good position to make application to the Ministry to fund a new school. We are going to continue to have growth in this area. If we replace portables with the addition we would be taking away from play space. The preferred option that we have considered is to equalize enrolment, demonstrate sustainability and apply for funding for a new school.

Trustee Nieuwesteeg:

Earlier in the presentation we talked about sq ft. per pupil, if we were able to consider an addition, that would severely impact the play area for the students if we put an addition on. I really think that this is not a viable option for us at this point.

Trustee Burtnik:

We still need to show balanced enrolment in order to get funding whether it is an addition or new build. You have to have managed your assets the best way before you will get funding because the government would simply say that you have empty spaces over there and until they are balanced we are not giving you money. Funding is critically important.

Dan CuvIELlo, Loretto:

When you are saying balancing populations, is that what you mean by funding?

Trustee Burtnik:

In order to show that we have utilized our resources to the best of our ability, without putting kids on busses from Niagara Falls to St. Catharines, within the community we need to minimize the number of empty spaces at 1 or 2 schools to alleviate the pressures here at Loretto. We hope that down the road we are in a position, as the south Niagara Falls keeps growing to be able to build a school somewhere within that community.

David Corfield, Loretto:

Going back to my point about St. Thomas More.

Trustee Burtnik:

The facility of St. Thomas More was too expensive to repair.

Dave Corfield:

In a dangerous sense or aesthetics sense?

Trustee Burtnik:

In the sense that it was not worth repairing to put kids in it. Value per dollars and that is determined by the government, not by the Board. They come in and there are studies that are done, I'm sure they are all available if you would like to look at the state of that school before it was closed, and they did a report on Our Lady of Mount Carmel's ability to house those students in one facility.

David Corfield:

What is the cost of the portables? Is cost of portables as much as new addition?

Trustee Burtnik:

No.

Controller Scott Whitwell:

Fair to say that portables provide temporary relief. In terms of moving individual portables around the costs is approximately 25 thousand dollars but then there are costs associated with having it connected to services, skirting and other costs. There is a cost to adding portables here due to the electrical. For us to have it wired properly, it could run somewhere between \$50,000 - \$100,000.

Frank Mancuso, Loretto:

I know that families don't want kids split up but what if they ship Grade 7 and 8 students off site to Our Lady of Mount Carmel or Father Hennepin. It would alleviate some of the enrolment issues at Loretto. I'm just throwing this out there. Could be some compromise with the school board where parents can drop off their kids here to be transported to another school and then they are brought back at the end of the day to this school.

Unnamed Speaker:

My Niece goes to school where all 7 and 8 are together and then all go to high school together and then the grade 9s are all together as they were all together in grade 7 and 8.

Frank Mancuso, Loretto:

I get what you are all trying to do. We all want what's best for our kids and everyone here will say what's best is that our kids stay here at Loretto. At the end of the day the Grade 7's and 8's won't have an issue going to another school.

Trustee Nieuwesteeg:

What we have found is that when a child has been at a school for 6-7 years it becomes part of their identity. Parents in the past say please don't move/uproot my child in Grade 8, a year before high school. It would be unfair from our perspective to tell students to go to another school for the next two years. I really don't think that is an option that we would consider but thank you.

Trustee Burtnik:

What we are going to do is take note of ideas and take them back to committee and have discussion and make a response that considers the pedagogy and the Mission of our Board.

Superintendent Farrell:

Staff did consider at the outset the possibility of having Grade 7 and 8 students attend Saint Michael Catholic High School but that just didn't work based on the numbers of students attending Saint Michael. They are nearly full already.

Paula Willms, Loretto:

My children are in Grade 4. My concern is that my husband and I play by the rules. We were out of bounds and then we bought a home in the area. With your options, my area (E1) is in them. With E1 being in all four options, are there other areas that can be considered not including E1?

Superintendent Lefebvre:

I know this answer is not helpful but just to the north of Lundy's Lane is the Cardinal Newman community and they have more than 500 kids so we don't want to move between

these two school communities because they are both over capacity. If we start to change around here to make space you are going into another full school.

Paula Willms, Loretto:

Why do almost all the options have E1? Why focus on that section? Wouldn't it be fair to take in all areas?

Trustee Nieuwesteeg:

Due to the proximity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Paula Willms:

When you go back to the Board, my concern is that most of the options have E1 and E2. I would like to see more options with other areas considered as well, like E4 and W4.

Trustee Nieuwesteeg:

We will consider that.

Superintendent Farrell:

With regards to transportation, E4 and W4 are almost all walkers. If we have area E1 attend Our Lady of Mount Carmel, we will need to put 27 students on a bus who are currently identified as walkers in E1.

Suggest that E1 Students and W1 is close to E1 and double the students

Trustee Burtnik:

When we were coming up with the options, the Committee looked at the option of moving to Our Lady of Mount Carmel anyone who is bussed, instead of taking kids who are walking which flies in the face of physical fitness.

We know for sure that a number of parents in the walking zone actually drive their kids to school. (Trustee Burtnik asked for a show of hands of who lives in the walking area but still drives their kids to school.) It's something we are talking about at the Committee. It didn't make sense to us to put students on the bus to Our Lady of Mount Carmel who can see Loretto and literally walk across the street to school.

We will go back and discuss it further. This decision is going to affect some parent somewhere and what we really don't want to have parents say is create an option that affects somebody else but not me. At the end of the day, somebody will be affected. Unless everyone says Option 1 is the best option, somebody will be affected. It is not personal it is a practical decision.

Paula Willms, Loretto:

I'm concerned that most of the options include E1 and the 41 students. We need to broaden this.

Trustee Burtnik:

That is why we are here, to listen to your concerns and go back and talk about that.

Superintendent Farrell:

One consideration could be to exclude the walkers in E1.

Paul Willms, Loretto:

I moved into E1 to stay at Loretto and now you are going to move us out.

Superintendent Farrell:

We have not made a decision. This is part of the process.

Jason Cukierski, Loretto:

More of a suggestion. There is something attractive about a smaller school. I'm in the walking area of W2. Let's say my kids walk to Forestview Blvd. Could they be bussed to Our Lady of Mount Carmel?

Superintendent Farrell:

That is an option that we can consider.

Josephine Cuvillo, Loretto:

My concern is with the 81 students at the top. How many of those are going to go to the new school? The reason we moved to that area was to go to Loretto and now we have to start over with everything. It's a lot to our kids.

Superintendent Farrell:

Students will be affected by a change of schools and transitions can be difficult. Rest assured, between the three schools, that a very strong transition plan will be put in place to ensure a smooth transition. We believe children are very resilient and that although they enter as strangers at a new school on the first day these strangers will very quickly become friends.

Davie Woods, Loretto:

Is there an opportunity in this building given we are sharing the roof with another school? I don't know their situation. Are they suffering the same issues as we are? Could we look at leasing some space on the other side to offset the expenditures needed if we add more portables? We don't want kids displaced. Could available space at Kate S. Durdan be utilized to reduce the number of kids you need to be moved?

Superintendent Lefebvre:

Mr. Whitwell, myself and the Board Lawyer and Trustee Burtnik met with DSBN and made that request and the answer was not interested in leasing that space, due to the conditions for that kind of situation, we were able to gain access to one class two years ago. They will not give us any more space. They are now over capacity and have one portable.

David Szolucha:

Please return to the slide with the development information on the Garner South area. What would happen if we look at Phase 3 and 4 and send 50% of these students to Our Lady of Mount Carmel?

Superintendent Farrell:

The first thing we need to know is the type of construction being built in Phases 3 and 4. There is a different pupil yield factor used in calculating future enrolment. For example, there is a different calculation depending on whether it is a single family home, semi-detached, townhomes or highrises. The pupil yield varies based on the type of dwelling. Our consultant was provided with all of this information. These students have been factored in.

David Szolucha:

So 5% of this population would be sent to Our Lady of Mount Carmel?

Trustee Burtnik:

We work on about one-third of the overall projected overall number of school-age children attending Catholic schools. So when you look at the overall projections we anticipate 400, or so, over the lifetime of its development.

Superintendent Farrell:

In determining the number of students from an area attending, from single family homes a very rough calculation is to take the number of units and multiply by .66 and then divide by 3 to determine the number of students we would receive. That, however, is a very rough calculation.

Mr. Szolucha:

So 80 students will be sent to Our Lady of Mount Carmel from that area.

Superintendent Farrell:

Those students are in fact already in the Our Lady of Mount Carmel area and are factored into its projected enrolment. Students who are currently attending Loretto are factored into its projected enrolment.

Dorothy Graham, Loretto:

I don't know if it makes sense or not, but could one option be status quo and stop any other future registration? Eighty students isn't going to make a difference. How much is that going to lessen it?

Superintendent Lefebvre:

We understand that and we are looking at that. We also have to look at the siblings of those out of boundary students.

Superintendent Farrell:

What you have suggested is one of the grandfather options that we proposed for consideration.

Lisa DiPietro, Loretto:

If we decide on one of the options and you are now going to move these kids out then you are going to get parents fighting with the board. This is what happened in 2010. John Crocco met with them and said ok you can stay, okay you can stay, okay you can stay too. Now our kids are suffering and paying the price. We are over capacity and these kids now have no gym time. Are you prepared when all these parents from W1 and E1 come to you that they are already at Loretto and want to stay? What are you prepared to say to these parents? We were shipped out then shipped back in when they changed the boundary. So what are you going to say? It all comes down to you guys. It comes from you saying ok? What happens when you kick these kids out?

Trustee Burtnik:

I promise you we will not be kicking any kids out. We have a problem and we have to solve it, and the solution lies somewhere between what we have presented and the conversations that are going to come to light. There is the option of grandfathering students that are in. Every child's story will have a chance to be told. It is not simply mathematical, where we take this chunk and move them. If it was that easy we would have done it and all of the moves that we tried to make in 2010 would have been made. So as far as what are we prepared to say, it depends on the student, the human story of each child and each parent.

Lisa DiPietro, Loretto:

We keep listening and we keep accepting more kids. It's the same thing. We have been doing this since 2010 and now it just got worse. I have to worry about the safety of my kids, with the bathroom situation - waiting to go to the bathroom and no one is going to leave. It has to come from you guys.

I have to worry about my kids' education as we are over capacity and there are classrooms sitting empty at St. Vincent de Paul, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and we have kids sitting in portables because we are way over capacity. What about our bathroom situation? Kids have to wait. And I get it that no one is going to want to leave. You don't understand that.

Trustee Burtnik:

Are you suggesting everyone from out of boundary go back?

Lisa DiPietro, Loretto:

Maybe everyone out of bounds from now on.

Trustee Burtnik:

Okay the message has been written down and will go back to Committee.

Lisa DiPietro, Loretto:

I appreciate what you are saying. You can tell how emotional everyone is. Every option is best case scenario and I don't think one stand alone option will truly work; one option reduces by 30%, another by 10%. My point is I think we need stronger criteria for looking at out of bounds students.

Superintendent Farrell:

We will bring that back. One other thing to note about the Loretto boundary area is that we would have the school at capacity with just the area west of Kalar Road. East of Kalar Road simply adds to the enrolment in the school.

Sabrina Fabro, Loretto:

Have we considered the option of parents who would want to volunteer their students to go to another school? Some families may want to go to another school. Two parents here are willing. Maybe we should see if there are more families.

Trustee Nieuwesteeg:

One point I want to make is if a child gets moved they will be going from a wonderful facility to another wonderful facility. There are a lot of positives to each of the schools. Your children, wherever they end up, will be well served. We do not like having to make these decisions but it is a necessary part of our mandate, to serve all of our students. I thank all of you for your attendance this evening and your passionate input. It is your input that will help us make our final decision.

Dan Cuvillo, Loretto:

Why can't we just keep everyone here? If there are only 40-80 kids leaving here they will have no friends. Why can't we keep everyone happy and just keep them here. Be patient and allow development to happen. Send new out of boundary students to Carmel and then we don't have to move anyone. It will take a year to two to happen.

Trustee Burtnik:

So you are saying basically status quo? The status quo reflects a bigger problem and further growth here if we do nothing.

Dan Cuvillo, Loretto:

If we are patient when all those homes fill up then Our Lady of Mount Carmel will be full. It saves kids from being taken from this school.

Amy Malvaso, Loretto:

We should explore a little further just asking parents if they are interested, or will consider leaving Loretto. We know this is going to be a touchy subject. Already tonight we had two parents speak up and entertain this option, maybe there is group of parents interested. We should explore that and see where we go from there. Maybe we only get two parents, but who knows.

Trustee Nieuwesteeg:

Great thought. Did not think of that. Through school council if you could get this message to the parents.

Paula Wilms, Loretto:

This is to take effect next September right? When will the decision be made?

Trustee Nieuwesteeg:

The final recommendation will go to the Board in January.

Dave Woods, Loretto:

Are the slides available on the website?

Superintendent Farrell:

They will be up tomorrow

F. COMMENTS/INPUT/FEEDBACK

G. FUTURE ACTION

Superintendent Farrell outlined upcoming meeting dates and highlighted the three upcoming Public Meetings dedicated to receiving public input. Committee Meetings are open for the public to attend.

H. 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 November 9, 2016 be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.