



“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

**Notre Dame College School Family of Schools
Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Public Meeting
St. Alexander Catholic Elementary School and St. Kevin Catholic Elementary School**

**April 18, 2018
6:00 p.m.**

ST. KEVIN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Minutes of Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Public Meeting for the Notre Dame College Family of Schools of April 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Kevin Catholic Elementary School.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Father Paul MacNeil.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was led by Father Paul MacNeil.

2. Roll Call and Attendance

Committee Members		Present	Excused	Absent
Fr. Paul MacNeil	Trustee	x		
Ted O’Leary	Trustee	x		
Dino Sicoli	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		
Anne Marie Crocco	Principal–St. Alexander Catholic Elementary School	x		
Maria Solomon	Principal – St. Kevin Catholic Elementary School	x		
CSC Chair/Co-Chair	St. Alexander Catholic Elementary School		x	
CSC Chair/Co-Chair	St. Kevin Catholic Elementary School	x		

There were two members of the public in attendance, both from St. Kevin Catholic School community.

3. Welcome

Father MacNeil welcomed all that were in attendance.

B. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Father MacNeil presented the Terms of Reference for information and review.

Superintendent Farrell introduced Kathy Levinski and Scott Whitwell. Superintendent Farrell indicated that all information on the Attendance Area Review is on the Board Website and that all meetings were open to the public.

C. MEETING SCHEDULE

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

D. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Superintendent Farrell and Kathy Levinski presented the background information pertaining to Notre Dame College School Family of Schools for information and review.

E. ATTENDANCE AREA OPTION FOR CONSIDERATION

Superintendent Farrell and Kathy Levinski presented the proposed attendance boundaries and updated enrolment projections for St. Alexander Catholic Elementary School and St. Kevin Catholic Elementary School review. The enrolment projections including the proposed area of change were compared to the projections maintaining status quo.

The proposal recommends that Merritt Meadows and Hansler Heights developments (which includes the subdivision to be known as Timberwood Estates) in the municipality of Thorold be included in the St. Kevin Catholic Elementary School boundary.

The updated enrolment projections indicate that between both developments we can anticipate 60 students in total.

F. COMMENTS/INPUT/FEEDBACK

Kathy Levinski indicated that, to date, four comments of support have been received for the proposed area of change be directed to St. Kevin Catholic Elementary School.

The feedback included:

- that there is more parking and space at St. Kevin Catholic Elementary School to accommodate the students;
- concern about the effect of future growth in the Fonthill and Thorold area on St. Alexander Catholic Elementary School;

Superintendent Farrell opened the floor for comments, input and feedback.

Father Paul

It makes sense to do this now before the area builds up and it is a very good idea to make this change prior to families moving in to the new development. It just makes so much sense in the perspective of balance the two schools.

Superintendent Farrell

Experience is a good teacher, and when we did the attendance area review last year with Loretto Catholic, one of the comments that came from it was that as they were building the change should have been done. It is very difficult when you have 600 students attending a school and then change the boundaries. It's like closing the school. So the timing for this change was right.

Last year we adjusted the Father Hennepin Catholic Elementary School boundary at a similar stage of the subdivision development..

Laura White

Just wondering about a portable, would we have to expand and have portables here at St. Kevin or just work with what we have.

Superintendent Farrell

If we make the change, both schools can hold 423 students so it keeps St. Kevin underneath capacity all the way through the projections to 2027 unless there is a major change in development.

Kathy Levinski

The projections shown do include the proposed area of change and all the other developments planned in the boundaries so we don't anticipate that they will change too much.

Father MacNeil

St. Alexander is growing.

Kathy Levinski

It is and those projections include all that growth. There are more units being built, and fewer children in the Fonthill area.

George Gallo

Last year, during a PA day, one thing that came up was what can we do to promote Catholic Education – could the Board come up with a pamphlet for the new subdivisions, because as new homeowners, even having a blurb to have your taxes directed to the Catholic Board because they automatically default to the public and people don't know that so when these neighbourhoods do go in, maybe something posted on those community mail boxes or something.

Kathy Levinski

Thank you for bringing that up the suggestion. In conversations I've had with the developers they are really interested in getting that information as well, this is something we can look at.

George Gallo

Even a laminated poster going up welcoming people in the neighbourhood to Niagara Catholic or something like that.

Anne Marie Crocco

Yes and we can make it specific to the school. When Maria was working at St. Alexander, we went to Sobey's and other places and they willingly posted information and also speaking with developers they are asking for that. We could do something like that for St. Kevin together.

Superintendent Farrell

Perhaps we can marry the two ideas and get the information out there.

G. FUTURE ACTION

Superintendent Farrell suggested that since all of the feedback we have received is positive, we enact this sooner, so we could take a look at Tuesday, April 24th for our next Committee Meeting. We can send schoolConnects message advising that there has been positive response to the proposal. The Committee could make a recommendation on April 24th and we will bring a report to the May Committee of the Whole and Board Meetings. The dates could be adjusted on the Board website.

The next meeting could be April 24th at 3:00 p.m. in the Sisters of Notre Dame Room. We would not require the Committee Meeting on May 23, 2018, nor the Public & Committee Meeting on May 28th, 2018 and these could be removed from the schedule.

Father MacNeil indicated that he would not be available on April 24th, 2018 but suggested that Trustee O'Leary chair the meeting on his behalf and there would be a quorum with Trustee Sicoli.

It was agreed that the next Committee Meeting would be Tuesday, April 24th, 2018 and that the Committee would report to the Committee of the Whole Meeting on May 8th, 2018 and then present to the Board Meeting on May 22nd, 2018. The Public and Committee Meetings for May 28th, 2018 would be cancelled.

G. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.