



August 30, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Since my last update to you regarding the funding announcement for the two new Chatham elementary schools, the Board has been busy pursuing many options regarding property locations – one in north Chatham and one in south Chatham.

I am pleased to announce today that at its Regular Meeting last night, the Board of Trustees selected a location for the north Chatham school. It is an eight acre site at 801 McNaughton, Avenue, West, a site which has been owned by the Board since the 1990s. We believe there are many benefits to locating our new north school on this site.

First and foremost, there are many valuable partnership possibilities available with the future location of the Chatham Children's Treatment Centre, on an adjacent property on McNaughton Avenue. With such a close physical proximity, there will be several benefits to both students and staff – meeting rooms at either facility can be accessed by staff resulting in more frequent and effective communication and joint educational opportunities. This location will also make it easier for special needs students to use the centre's adapted pool and outdoor learning spaces, including an adapted playground.

In addition, the close proximity to St. Clair College will provide for easy participation in a number of college programs, which are beneficial to elementary school students and staff. The location is also adjacent to a soccer pitch and baseball fields.

None of the available properties considered by the Board was either centrally located or adjacent to a parish church. However, the additional ride times, both for bus students and for transportation to church for Mass, is minimal and, the Board believes, is outweighed by the tremendous opportunities which this location affords. Finally, the property is serviced and appropriately zoned; therefore, September 2019 remains our target opening date.

Some trustees have expressed concerns related to heavy traffic in the area; however, the Board is required to conduct a traffic study and has already entered into discussions with the municipality about steps that can be taken to alleviate traffic congestion. We are confident that the Board and the municipality can work with the findings of the study to put in place measures that will address these concerns.

Staff continues to work on securing a location for the new south Chatham elementary school and a further announcement is expected in the not-too-distant future.

This is an exciting time in the history of our Board, as our plans begin to take shape for two brand new state-of-the-art Catholic elementary schools in Chatham. I will keep you updated as we move forward.

I hope that you and your family are enjoying these last few days of the summer break and that you are looking forward to another exciting school year!

Sincerely,
Dan Parr
Director of Education