ARC MEETING NOTES
Tuesday, April 29, 2008
St. Peter Catholic School, Sarnia

Chair: Philip McMillan, Superintendent of Education   **Recording Secretaries: Tina Smith & Cathy Calvert**

TIME	ITEM
7:20p.m.	**Opening Prayer** ▪ Philip McMillan, Superintendent of Education, provided a brief explanation that the meeting was starting a bit late. He then opened the fourth meeting of the South Sarnia ARC asking Father Jim Higgins to lead the prayer.
7:25 p.m.	**Welcome/Opening Remarks** • Philip McMillan, Superintendent of Education introduced himself as Chair of the meeting and acknowledged the Trustees and Board Staff in attendance.
7:30 p.m.	**Rules of Order** ▪ An agenda for each meeting will be followed and will be used for order in the meeting. ▪ The Chair's role was stated. ▪ The role of the ARC is to suggest ways in which the problem of declining enrolment among the four south Sarnia Catholic school communities should be dealt with. ▪ All meetings, deliberations and decisions of the ARC will be in public. ▪ All meeting notes will be posted on the Board website. This is the fourth of five meetings. ▪ The final decision rests with the elected Trustees of the Board, who will consider the recommendations of the ARC and any recommendations from the Director of Education. **Attendance** ▪ All attendees were asked to register their attendance at the beginning of the meeting. ▪ It is a prerequisite of the appeal process that those wishing to appeal must demonstrate that they have attended meetings. **Notes of the previous meeting** ▪ Notes of the previous meeting are in your folders and are also posted on the board website. ▪ There were no questions from the ARC arising from the notes of the April 1st meeting. **Protocols** ▪ All ARC meeting protocols are clearly outlined in the program for this meeting.
7:30 p.m.	**Report by ARC members regarding their trip to see two sites in London area** ▪ On April 9th six of our ARC members as well as Paul Wubben, Director of Education, Bruce Hannah, Manager of Facility Services and Philip McMillan, Superintendent of Education traveled to London to tour two school sites. ▪ Both sites visited showed us the integration of an addition with an existing school as well as one of the sites

	provided a look at a "large" elementary school.
	▪ The chair then invited the members of the ARC to share what they had gained from these tours
	▪ The comments from the ARC were:
	▪ Both schools were interesting and the big school contained everything that was on the ARC's "wish list." There were four wings which were situated off of a central hub. The wings were divided by division: primary, junior and intermediate.
	▪ One member said that the large school felt as though it was 3 schools in one.
	▪ Two smaller schools would seem to be a better fit for the Sarnia area.
	▪ The Principal at the large school had only been at the school for 4 months, and did not know all the students. But the Principal at the smaller schools did know all the students.
	▪ Amount of land required for one large school may be a problem for the Sarnia area.
	▪ Large school offers more classes in each grade so that if there are issues in a particular class there is a possibility of moving to another class within the same school.
	▪ More clubs and activities available in large school.
	▪ Large school did not seem to be as welcoming as smaller schools.
	▪ Seamless transition in buildings from old to new where an addition had been built.
7:41 p.m.	**Response by the Director of Education – as requested by ARC members**
	▪ Paul asked the ARC again if they still wanted him to give them his opinion. The ARC agreed that they did want to hear from Paul.
	▪ Paul presented his background in elementary schools as a teacher, vice principal and principal in both large and smaller schools.
	▪ A large, single elementary school requires significant acreage for the building and the student population.
	▪ The schools in which Paul worked were established as large schools. They continued to grow.
	▪ Not one of our current school sites is large enough to accommodate one large school.
	▪ The Sarnia community probably is not prepared to accept one large school.
	▪ Paul's recommendation to the ARC would be to build two new schools because retrofitting can be very disruptive to students.
	▪ The main concern should be for the well-being of students. It is important that they be disrupted as little as possible.
	▪ Paul then answered questions from the ARC members.
	▪ **Question:** If we choose to build two new schools, will there be boundary changes?
	▪ **Answer*: There will be boundary changes and they would not be done until the new schools are built. The boundaries would be determined by the population and they would be done in a logical way. There will be no "grandfathering" – new boundaries would be established and adhered to.***

8:06 p.m.

Decision regarding recommendation requiring one or two schools
- A discussion was held regarding the option of one or two schools. A further discussion was held as to whether these school sites would be one new school or two retrofitted schools.
- The vote was as follows:
  - One school – no votes
  - Two schools – unanimous

Discussion regarding the Valuation Instrument
- The ARC members presented the results of the completed Valuation Instrument.

This table shows the results for all four schools using the Valuation Instrument.

Category	Total Value	St. Benedict	St. Margaret	St. Peter	St. Therese
Value to the Student	45	40	40	40	40
Value to the School Board	25	15	15	10	20
Value to the Community	20	18	13	10	20
Value to the Local Economy	10	5	5	5	5
Total	100	78	73	65	85

8:20 p.m.

Decision regarding the choice of school site(s)
- The decision on which sites the ARC is recommending for future use is based on the numbers of the Valuation Instruments, the discussions throughout the four ARC meetings and the three tours which were taken.
- The ARC voted on their first and second choice of school sites.
- The decision was made to recommend building two new schools, one on the St. Therese site and the other on the St. Benedict site.

8:30 p.m.

Presentation by Planning and Transportation re: boundaries
- Karen Dolson, Coordinator Planning Services, presented the proposed boundaries for the St. Therese and St. Benedict school sites.
- Kent Orr, Manager Transportation Services, explained that currently 16 buses serve these schools and that they will require 18 buses when the new schools are built and the new boundaries are in place.
- Further, that the boundary as presented by the Karen Dolson pertaining to the far east presently being served by South Sarnia Schools be re-aligned to be part of St. Anne Catholic School. The proposed changes are outlined on a map of the area (click here to view map).

Decision regarding boundaries
- The following recommendation was made regarding the boundaries: It is recommended that Indian Road, running north/south, be the boundary line between the proposed new sites of St. Benedict and St. Therese

	Catholic Schools. **Discussion re: construction timelines and resultant closure and consolidation** ▪ Bruce Hannah, Manager Facilities Services spoke to the ARC on the construction and timelines based on the recommendation of the two sites. ▪ Using the current timelines, the board would be voting on the recommendation not less than 60 school days after the recommendation from the ARC is posted. This would bring the vote to the end of October. Ministry guidelines for construction must be followed. The anticipated completion date for the two new schools would be September 2010. ▪ Paul reminded the ARC that these are recommendations to the board and the ministry, and as such, could be declined.
8:35 p.m.	**Confirmation of what the written recommendation to the Board will say** **Primary Recommendation:** The Accommodation Review Committee recommends that the four communities of St. Benedict, St. Margaret, St. Peter and St. Therese Catholic Schools be consolidated into two sites to be located at the current sites of St. Therese and St. Benedict Catholic Schools. It is further recommended that Indian Road, running north/south, be the boundary line between the proposed new sites of St. Benedict and St. Therese Catholic Schools.
8:43 p.m.	**Presentation of the Agenda – May 20, 2008 – St. Patrick's High School** ▪ Proposed agenda for the May 20th ARC was presented by Philip McMillan.
     8:50 p.m.	**Questions** ▪ **Please allow ten working days for all questions to be posted.** The Chair then thanked everyone for their respectful participation and closed the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.
	Future ARC Meeting Dates • *Tuesday, May 20, 2008 – St. Patrick's Catholic High School*