



REPORT

SUBJECT: ACCOMMODATION REVIEW (ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND ST. PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL) – TRANSPORTATION REPORT

SUBMITTED TO: BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DATE OF MEETING: October 26, 2004

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PRESENTED BY: JIM MCKENZIE, Associate Director – Corporate Services

SUBMITTED BY: MARGARET NELSON, Director of Education

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BACKGROUND:

When reviewing a school for potential closure, Board policy 7.4 requires the following:

- A report and analysis of transportation arrangements necessary if a school is consolidated or closed.

The potential consolidation of St. Paul Catholic School, Thamesville and St. Ignatius Catholic School, Bothwell is currently being reviewed. This report will study the impact on the transportation of students from the St. Ignatius Catholic School attendance area to a consolidated school in Thamesville. This review is based on the current student enrolment data for the 2004-05 school year. It is understood that each year demographics change with Grade 8 graduates leaving a school and new JK registrations entering a school.

Presently four buses serve St. Paul Catholic School providing transportation for 78 eligible students. Four buses also serve St. Ignatius Catholic School providing transportation for 34 eligible students. Students from both schools share buses with the Lambton Kent District School Board in a multi-tiered integrated delivery model. The provision of transportation to students within the region is governed by the transportation policy and procedures outlined as follows:

Eligibility for Transportation Service

The Education Act permits the Board to provide transportation but does not obligate it to do so.

1. Only students qualified to be admitted in a school operated by the Board may be eligible for transportation service under the following provision:
JK to Grade 8 – The student’s primary residence is more than 1.6 kilometres from their school.
2. Distance Calculations
 - a) The distances stated in the Distance Eligibility Criteria shall be used to determine eligibility. The distances measured will be the shortest safe walking route along road or walkway from school property to home property.
 - b) The Transportation Department using transportation software with the appropriate municipal map will make all measurements for transportation purposes.
3. Eligibility Other Than Distance
At the discretion of the Transportation Department, transportation may be provided for a period up to one school year under the following circumstance:
 - a) The walking route is deemed to be unusually hazardous by the Transportation Department.
 - b) The provision of transportation shall be provided to a student for a physical disability upon completion of a medical certificate.These exceptions would be reviewed annually.

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Conditions of Service

1. Riding Time
 - a) Other than in exceptional circumstances, students in Elementary School will not spend more than 60 minutes on the bus, one way, each day.
 - b) Other than in exceptional circumstances, students in Secondary School will not spend more than 75 minutes on the bus, one way, each day.

2. Distance to Bus Stops – Urban (as defined by the Transportation Department)
 - a) In urban areas students in Elementary School (excluding students in the French Immersion program), shall not be required to walk more than 800 meters to the bus stop from the nearest point of access of their property.
 - b) In urban areas students in Secondary School (excluding students in the French Immersion program), shall not be required to walk more than 1600 meters to the bus stop from the nearest point of access of their property.
 - c) French Immersion students in Grades Junior Kindergarten - Graduation may be picked up and dropped off at centrally located bus stops as designated by the Transportation Department.

3. Distance to Bus Stops – Rural (as defined by the Transportation Department)
 - a) In rural areas, where possible, students shall not be required to walk more than 800 meters from the resident gate to a designated bus stop.
 - b) Where houses are grouped in rural areas, students will be requested to utilize community stops, which will be determined by the Route Technician.
 - c) In rural areas, every attempt will be made to ensure that Junior Kindergarten through Grade 1 students are picked up and dropped off as close to their home laneway as safety will allow.

Note – Although the above are documented procedures, the Board in practice makes every attempt to pick-up and drop-off at the student’s driveway.

4. Stop Location

Bus stop locations shall be a minimum of 300 meters apart, and should allow a minimum of 150 meters of clear vision in both directions. Bus stops should not be located on a steep grade, brow of a hill or a blind curve. All stop locations are subject to conditions under the Ontario Highway Traffic Act.

5. Loading Guidelines
 - a) Bus loading guidelines shall be as follows whenever possible:
 - o Grades K-6 – Manufactured rated capacity
 - o Grades 7-Graduation – Manufactured rated capacity less 33%
 - b) Standees or sitting in stairwells will not be permitted under any circumstance.

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PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION SERVICE:

- Students presently attending St. Ignatius Catholic School would be directed to the consolidated school in Thamesville.
- All former St. Ignatius Catholic School students would be bused due to distance.
- A total of 153 students will require transportation. Currently 112 students are being transported.
- Seven (7) school runs will service the area, all within loading and ride time guidelines established by the Board. Currently there is a total of eight (8) school runs, four (4) school runs at each of the two schools.
- Three of the existing runs currently providing service to Thamesville will remain unchanged.
- Run loads (# of Catholic students / # of total students) and length of runs are projected as follows:

○ Run #001	26 / 64 students	47 minutes
○ Run #002	22 / 29 students	44 minutes
○ Run #003	13 / 45 students	50 minutes
○ Run #004	21 / 64 students	51 minutes
○ Run #005	21 / 21 students	40 minutes
○ Run #006	12 / 12 students	43 minutes
○ Run #007	38 / 38 students	37 minutes
- #001, #002, #003 are the existing runs with no change.
- #004, #005, #006, #007 are the new runs with all but #004 being dedicated runs servicing the consolidated Catholic school in Thamesville.
- #007 will pick up the students living in Bothwell. The longest ride for a Bothwell student from the time of pick-up at their home to drop-off at the school in Thamesville will be 20 minutes.
- An increased cost in transportation of \$64,500 will be realized through the addition of two buses and 147 additional kilometres.
- The aggregate number of transported kilometres will increase by 757 kilometres generating approximately \$31,000 in additional transportation funding.
- Net cost to the Board for the additional provision of transportation is approximately \$33,500
- Funding from the Ministry’s two rural initiatives, Distance Schools Allocation and the Keeping Good Schools Open Allocation, will be used to supplement the transportation budget for any increased cost resulting from the consolidation of the schools in Bothwell and Thamesville.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *Accommodation Review (St. Ignatius Catholic School and St. Paul Catholic School) – Transportation Report, October 26, 2004 for information.*