

From: arc
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 9:09
To: Linda Arsenault
Subject: FW: Public input to ARC re George Vanier closure

From: >
Sent: Wednesday, January 08, 2014 8:02 AM
To: arc
Subject: Public input to ARC re George Vanier closure

January 8 2014

Dear ARC Committee (RCCDSB)

I am writing to express my concern that the ARC proposal to keep George Vanier open past June 2014 will not address significant overcapacity in two schools and will not address significant additional expenditures that could be avoided by consolidating the 200 students of George Vanier and St John Bosco schools into a single school (St John Bosco, Barry's Bay). I note from the ARC data that if both school buildings remain open they will require investments /maintenance of more than \$3 million each over the next five years and that education costs to keep less than 50 students in their own school will be hundreds of thousands of dollars per year more than educating those students in Barry's Bay. The poor condition of George Vanier school approaches "prohibitive to repair" meaning a replacement facility will be needed in the not so distant future.

Reviewing the ARC information and newspaper reports, it seems that the primary concern against the consolidation of students in Barry's Bay is bus travel time of longer than 45 minutes one way for elementary students. The actual distance travelled appears to be a secondary concern.

The bussing information posted on the ARC website does not seem to provide the ARC committee with simple alternates such as increasing the number of buses/bus routes/taxis to keep all ride times within the accepted/status quo of 45 minutes. For example, at \$40,000 per bus per school year, two additional buses could easily be provided to reduce pickups/stops per route and thus greatly shorten total travel time to Barry's Bay to under 45 minutes. In fact, the overall transportation costs may be reduced since some students will be able to travel on already established bus routes for secondary students travelling to Barry's Bay.

Was the lack of provision of transportation options to the ARC just an oversight by the busing consortium? Perhaps there is an error in the software used resulting in excessive bussing times? – no student in a future catchment area of Barry's Bay's schools lives as far as a 76 minute motor vehicle drive from town.

It seems odd that the Ministry of Education would prefer that the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board spend millions on renovating a school instead of allowing for an extra \$40,000 - \$80,000 for additional transportation.

If the ARC feels that distance is truly why George Vanier should remain open, then it should recommend to the Ministry that all small schools across Ontario – elementary and secondary – that are 15 km away from the next school should remain open.

I hope that additional busing options can be presented to the ARC to support closure of George Vanier school in June 2014 - millions of dollars will be saved while shortening the travel time for numerous young children in Madawaska Valley. Finally, with immediate school closures the inevitable second ARC will be avoided.

Thank you for allowing public input to your ARC committee and best of luck with your very difficult task.

Sincerely,



January 16, 2014

Response #18

Renfrew County
Catholic District
School Board

499 Pembroke St. West
Pembroke, Ontario
K8A 5P1
1-800-267-0191
(613) 735-1031
FAX: (613) 735-2649
www.rccdsb.edu.on.ca

Re: Community Feedback to ARC

Dear **Undisclosed Addressee**

Thank you for your letter to the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) dated January 3, 2014.

As you are aware the Pupil Accommodation Review Process set up by the Ministry of Education Guidelines (2009) and the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board Policy, requires a broad community consultation process. Throughout this process the ARC has diligently gathered information, considered resources and community input, analyzed data and formulated a Draft Accommodation Review Report that will be presented at a public meeting on January 22, 2014 in Killaloe. After this public meeting public input will again be considered before the Accommodation Report is finalized and presented to the Director of Education and the Board of Trustees.

The ARC process requires the committee to consider the school's value to the student, value to the community, value to the board and value to the local economy. The ARC needs to consider input from all school communities in developing its recommendations. The Renfrew County Catholic School Board of Trustees will then decide what recommendations to approve.

Thank you for your interest in the ARC process. The ARC will consider your input!

Sincerely,

Peter Adam

Chair, Accommodation Review Committee

Superintendent of Education

Renfrew County Catholic District School Board

...as an inclusive Catholic educational community, we are called to express our mission as church, to pass on the Good News of Jesus Christ, to make it relevant in the world today, and to be the hope for the future.

From: arc
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 9:14
To: Linda Arsenault
Subject: FW: Concerned Parent

From:
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2014 11:16 AM
To: arc
Subject: Concerned Parent

To whom it may concern:

I am writing as a concerned parent of St. Mary's in Wilno. I want to write to you so that you are aware of the importance of keeping our school open for the future students. St. Mary's has been and will continue to be an important school for current and upcoming students. As a parent with a child attending this school and one child to enroll in September, I have seen the impact of such a small school. It may be small in numbers but large at heart. I can't imagine my child having to attend another school and having some of the most important things taken away. With no indoor gym, these students get the most natural gym of all...the outdoors. With amazing outdoor physical activity for all four seasons, why take that away? St. Mary's is family. The students and staff are so inviting and make the kids feel like the luckiest kids in the world. Coming from a Polish community, I believe it is important to keep this cultural part of society open and running. I hope you take into consideration how students benefit from small schools....not only do they get one on one attention that some or all may need but I believe that bullying is nonexistent. These kids help each other out, they look out for each other and they become each others friends. I understand that this is not only what decides if the school stays open or closed but it sure means a lot to me to voice my opinion as a parent so that you know why we choose this school as our school.

Sincerely,



January 16, 2014

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Undisclosed Addressee

Re: Community Feedback to ARC

Dear

Thank you for your letter to the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) dated January 3, 2014.

As members of the ARC we recognize that St. Mary's has been an important school for current students and past students. We agree that the inviting family like atmosphere cultivated by the staff and students make the students feel like the luckiest students in the world. There is no doubt that the outdoor environment at St. Mary's fosters healthy and hearty student physical activity. There are many benefits to small schools. Many of our RCCDSB students have had the benefit of this educational experience.

The ARC process requires the committee to consider the school's value to the student, value to the community, value to the board and value to the local economy. The ARC needs to consider input from all school communities in developing its recommendations. The Renfrew County Catholic School Board of Trustees will then decide what recommendations to approve.

Thank you for your interest in St. Mary's and the ARC process. By your letter you can be assured that that your voice as a parent will be heard by this committee..

The Arc will consider your input!

Sincerely,

Peter Adam

Chair, Accommodation Review Committee

Superintendent of Education

Renfrew County Catholic District School Board

...as an inclusive Catholic educational community, we are called to express our mission as church, to pass on the Good News of Jesus Christ, to make it relevant in the world today, and to be the hope for the future.