

Durham Catholic District School Board



Tuesday, May 27, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE COMMUNICATION NO. 115

From: Paul Pulla, Director of Education
Jim McCafferty, Chair of the Board

OSHAWA PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW

At its Regular Board meeting of May 26, 2008, the Board of Trustees approved the following motions:

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve Option 6 as recommended in the Director’s Follow-Up Report of April 28, 2008 regarding the Oshawa Pupil Accommodation Review.”

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve noon-hour transportation of Junior and Senior Kindergarten students be provided to all students within the transporting zone of all the Board’s schools effective September 2008.”

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve a pilot full-day every-day Junior and Senior Kindergarten Program be provided at Msgr. Philip Coffey Catholic School effective September 2008.”

Under Option 6 approved by the Board, the following schools will close effective September 2008: Canadian Martyrs Catholic School, Father Francis Mahoney Catholic School, St. Gregory Catholic School, Holy Cross Catholic School and St. Michael Catholic School.

Under realigned boundaries, students from these schools will attend the following consolidated schools: John XXIII Catholic School, Msgr. Philip Coffey Catholic School, Sir Albert Love Catholic School, St. Christopher Catholic School, St. Hedwig Catholic School and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School.

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Director Pulla stated: "The Oshawa Pupil Accommodation Review was a lengthy process. It is never an easy thing to close a school. We will work with all of the affected school communities to ensure an effective transition of all students who will be attending a new school in September. It is our hope that this decision will restore stability to the Oshawa school communities that have been uncertain about the outcome of the review process."

Chair McCafferty stated: "Trustees found this to be a difficult decision, we are confident that our Oshawa students will benefit from program enhancements and facility improvements to our schools. I believe that this is the best decision for our students in Oshawa and across the Board."

In addition to the school closures and consolidations, the reinstatement of noon-hour kindergarten for students will provide working parents with a standard of service that is consistent with the value which the Board attributes to the family unit.

Msgr. Philip Coffey Catholic School will also benefit from a pilot program that will provide full-day kindergarten for students.

For further information please contact, Jim McCafferty, Chair of the Board, at 905-576-6150 ext. 2266 or Paul Pulla, Director of Education, at 905-576-6707 ext. 2317 or toll free 1-877-482-0722.

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