

Report to the Board of Trustees

Re: Final Report of the St. Mark Review Area ARAC

April 14, 2009

Committee Membership: *Paul Whitehead (Trustee – ARAC Chair), Bill Hall (Trustee), Anne Kavelaars (Trustee), Cathy Sexton (Superintendent), Shaun Joy (St. Mark School Council representative), Peter Malcolmson (St. Anne School Council representative), Christian Turres (Blessed Sacrament School Council representative), Lisa Torok (St. Pius X School Council representative), Linda Schwientek (St. Michael School Council representative), Richard Renneboog (London District School Council representative), Carol Rockx (London District School Council representative), Mark Weaver (Administration), Rebecca McLean (Administration), Beth Williams (Administrative Support).*

Background

In June 2007, the Board approved changes to the attendance boundary for St. Mark and redirected a portion of St. Mark students to attend Blessed Kateri, effective September 2007. At this meeting, the Board also approved the following recommendation:

The St. Mark/Blessed Kateri ARAC recommends that during the 2007/2008 school year, the Board initiate an accommodation review of future residential growth and enrolment in new development areas north and east of St. Mark.

At its regular meeting on May 26, 2008, the Board received the report, *Enrolment and Accommodation – Capital Expenditure Plan 2006/07 to 2011/12*. This report discussed both the current and future accommodation pressures at St. Mark and the surplus capacity at neighbouring schools; Blessed Sacrament, St. Anne, and St. Michael. The Board approved the following resolution:

That an ARAC (Accommodation Review Advisory Committee) be established to study boundary change options and make recommendations to Trustees for Blessed Sacrament, St. Anne, St. Michael, and St. Mark elementary schools, by April 13, 2009.

The St. Mark Review Area ARAC was established including representatives from affected schools, as per Board Policy. Administration circulated a Preliminary Administrative Report on February 9, 2009, which provided comprehensive background information related to accommodation, new development and enrolment. This report also provided three possible boundary options for consideration. The ARAC held an organizational meeting on February 17, 2009, followed by a public meeting held at John Paul II Catholic Secondary School on March 11, 2009. The community made presentations to the Committee, and asked questions of clarification.

Discussion

The ARAC convened a working meeting on April 1, 2009, to review accommodation issues, community input, and possible solutions to address the current and future accommodation issues affecting these schools. After a comprehensive discussion, the Committee proposed a modification to Administration's "Option 2", whereby instead of redirecting students in "Stoney Creek East and West" to Blessed Sacrament, students would be directed to St. Michael effective September, 2009. The ARAC also recommended that all existing grade 7 students at St. Mark and St. Pius X be offered a boundary exemption for the 2009/2010 school year, without transportation.

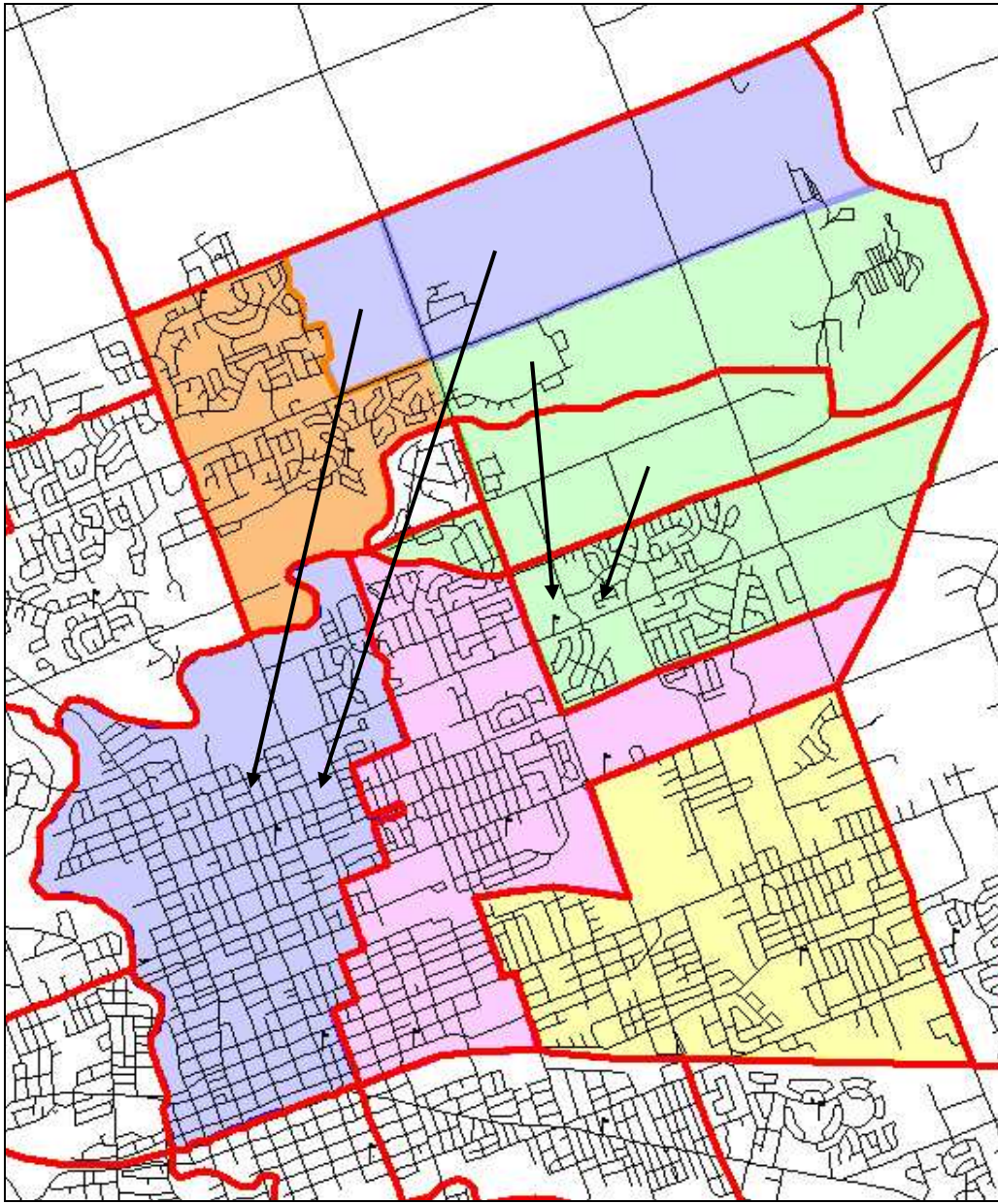
Recommendation






Following a discussion, the Committee unanimously recommended the following:

1. The St. Mark Review Area ARAC recommends, effective September 2009, that the Board implement Administrative Option 2, as described in the Preliminary Administrative Report dated February 9, 2009, modified as follows:

- a) *That all Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 St. Pius X students residing in the Kilally South area (former holding area for St. Pius X) be directed to attend St. Anne, effective September 2009(see attached map);*
- b) *That all Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 St. Mark students residing in the Kilally North area be directed to attend St. Anne, effective September 2009 (see attached map);*
- c) *That all Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 St. Mark students residing in the Stoney Creek East and Stoney Creek West areas be directed to attend St. Michael, effective September 2009 (see attached map);*
- d) *That all current grade 7 St. Mark and St. Pius X students residing in the affected areas, be allowed to remain at St. Mark and St. Pius X, without transportation.*

Modified Option 2



-  - Remaining St. Pius X boundary
-  - Kilally North and South to attend St. Anne
-  - No changes to Blessed Sacrament
-  - Stoney Creek East and West to attend St. Michael
-  - Remaining St. Mark boundary