



Report to the Board of Trustees

Administrative Recommendations Re: St. Mark ARAC Final Report

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 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, a proposed modification to Administration's "Option 2", was made, which redirected students to St. Michael, rather than Blessed Sacrament.

Discussion

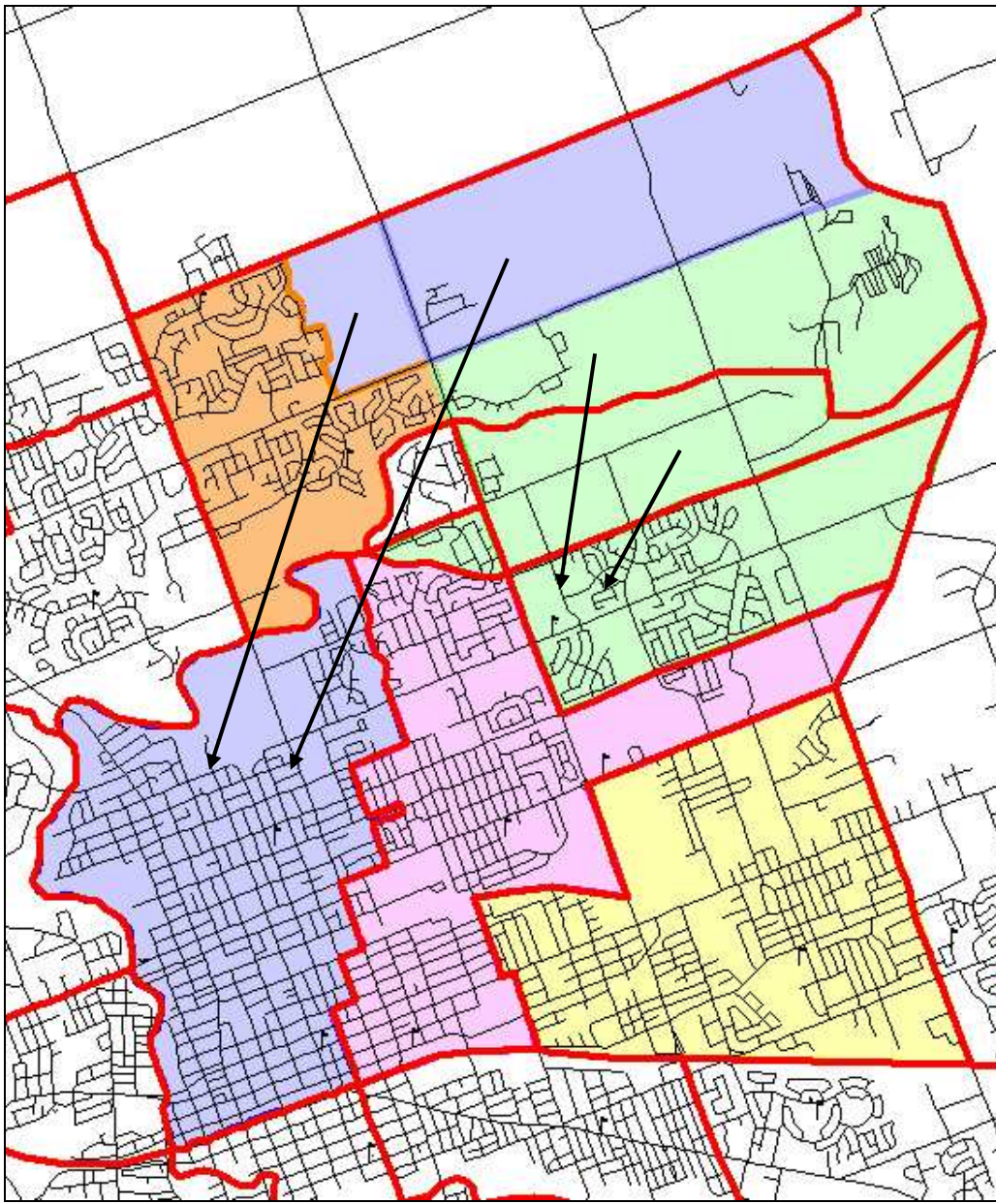
Administration supports the recommendations of the ARAC, with one additional recommendation. In order to implement the "grandfathering" of the current Grade 7 students at St. Mark and St. Pius X, Administration is recommending that families notify St. Mark and St. Pius X of their intention to attend St. Mark and St. Pius X for September, 2009, no later than






Friday May 22, 2009. This will enable schools and Administration to make the necessary arrangements. Administration recommends that this deadline be established to ensure that appropriate school based planning can proceed in a timely fashion.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *That the St. Mark Review Area ARAC recommendations be approved;*
2. *That families of the current Grade 7 St. Mark and St. Pius X students affected by the Administrative Option 2 as modified, notify St. Mark and St. Pius X School of their attendance intentions for September, 2009, no later than May 22, 2009;*
3. *That Administration be authorized to make minor changes in boundaries, if necessary, to ensure clarity of descriptions and implementation, while respecting the overall intent of ARAC recommendations.*

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