

OUR MISSION

*The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community rooted in the love of Christ..
We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity*

OUR VISION

*At Toronto Catholic, we transform the world
through witness, faith, innovation and action.*



AGENDA ADDENDUM THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC SESSION

Jo-Ann Davis, Chair

Maria Rizzo, Vice-Chair

Thursday, March 9, 2017

7:00 P.M.

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TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ALL STANDING
COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE BEING
RECORDED

For Board Use
Only

Delegation No. _____

☐ Public Session
☐ Private Session
☐ Three (3) Minutes

Name	Louise Kolanko
Committee	Corporate Affairs Strategic Planning and Property
Date of Presentation	3/9/2017
Topic of Presentation	Attendance boundaries for St. Gregory, Nativity of Our Lord, Mother Cabrini, St. Marcellus and Our Lady of Sorrows
Topic or Issue	In response to the Interim Report, support for the recommendation that the boundaries remain status quo and that a new elementary school be investigated.
Details	Over a span of 17 years, my 3 children attended St Gregory School. I support Director Gauthier's recommendation that the boundaries remain status quo, and that a new school be built to address the excess enrolment in the area. The compelling evidence indicates that sending children into uncontrolled traffic across the extremely dangerous Rathburn bridge over Highway 427, would put their safety in peril. Further, based on publicly available statistics, the previously proposed scenarios would have resulted in children from Statistics Canada Low Income Measurement households being redirected over the bridge to make more room at St. Gregory school for children from predominantly more affluent households. Not only could this be viewed as racial and economic discrimination, but it also goes against the Board's policy of embracing diversity, in terms of race and socio-economic status, within the school community. In protecting the safety of all children and their caregivers, the Director has come to the correct conclusion.
Action Requested	I urge the Committee, and the Board, to accept Director Gauthier's recommendations, and initiate, without undue delay, the process of establishing a new elementary school. In the interim, to alleviate enrolment pressures, I recommend that an audit, based on third party evidence, be performed before September 2017, to determine whether all students at St. Gregory school currently reside within the school boundary, similar to the procedure carried out in the TDSB. Thank- you for the opportunity to provide my input.

I am here as a delegation to speak only on my own behalf	Yes
I am an official representative of the Catholic School Advisory Committee (CSAC)	{2) I am an official representative of the Catholic School Advisory Committee (CSAC)} {CSAC Position}
I am an official representative of student government	
I am here as a spokesperson for another group or organization	
Submittal Date	3/8/2017



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☐ Public Session
☐ Private
 Session
☐ Three (3)
 Minutes

Name	Sandi Carvalho
Committee	Corporate Affairs Strategic Planning and Property
Date of Presentation	3/9/2017
Topic of Presentation	Attendance boundaries of St. Gregory, Nativity of Our Lord, Mother Cabrini, St. Marcellus and Our Lady of Sorrows.
Topic or Issue	In response to the Interim Report, support for the recommendation that the boundaries remain status quo and that a new elementary school be investigated.
Details	<p>I'm having a hard time understanding the reason why we are still talking about this. Director Gauthier and the staff of the Toronto Catholic District School Board all agreed to have St. Gregory, Nativity, Mother Cabrini, St. Marcellus and Our Lady of Sorrows remain status quo (unchanged) and that a possible location in the south/central Etobicoke area for a new elementary school to help alleviate enrollment pressure. The community is going through a changeover (old to young) and has been for a bit, so this should not be a shock that enrollment is just going to keep getting higher. It has been noted the enrollment is taking too much on St Gregory. Why is that instead of finding a solution to the problem that has been there for years, we are still talking about this boundary change? Is there a reason why we haven't found a solution and yet we keep going to back to this? Is there a hidden agenda behind all of this?</p> <p>In your report dated March 2, 2017 section 15.d Paragraph - D Evidence/Research/Analysis - 10 Traffic Report, you have listed that between 2012 and 2016, there were 26 personal injuries. 6 were pedestrian and 2 were cyclists. The times are between 8-9am and 3-6pm. The ages are 0-4, 5 were hurt and from the ages of 5-14, 10 were hurt. Is that not already too many children getting hurt?</p> <p>Let's move forward and start looking a solution for other generations. Enough time has been spent on not fixing the problem. Etobicoke needs a new school.</p>

Action Requested	That the Committee and the Board accept Director Gauthier's recommendation and to establishing a new elementary school. As well, an audit on to verify that all that are enrolled are within the school boundary.	
I am here as a delegation to speak only on my own behalf	Yes	
I am an official representative of the Catholic School Advisory Committee (CSAC)	{2} I am an official representative of the Catholic School Advisory Committee (CSAC){ St Gregory {CSAC Position}	
I am an official representative of student government		
I am here as a spokesperson for another group or organization /TD>		
Submittal Date	3/8/2017	



REPORT TO

CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE – SURVEY RESULTS

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
March 7, 2017	March 9, 2017	Click here to enter a date

D. Bilenduke, Sr. Coordinator of Finance

P. De Cock, Comptroller of Business Services & Finance

L. DiMarco, Superintendent of Curriculum Leadership & Innovation, ICT

M. Mascarenhas, Sr. Coordinator of Computer Services

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.

We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



R. McGuckin

Associate Director of Academic Affairs

A. Sangiorgio

Associate Director of Planning and Facilities

C. Jackson

Executive Superintendent of Business Services and Chief Financial Officer

Angela Gauthier

Director of Education

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

School Cash Online provides District School Boards and Schools with an integrated portal for processing school activity fees online and seamlessly interfaces with both Board and School level banking and accounting management systems. The ultimate reduction and/or elimination of cash handling tasks reduces the workload for school staff, mitigates the risk associated with cash transactions at the school level and increases student safety.

The implementation of an online payment processing application will also allow schools to recover HST rebates on invoices paid from school generated funds, which are not currently collected. Thus recovering usable funds for schools to access.

All school generated cash and online transactions will carry an additional administrative cost component of 1%. Any resulting shortfall between the administrative fees collected and the operational costs could be offset by funds derived through the recovery of HST rebates that have not historically been available. The remaining HST rebates would be returned to schools proportionately, based on their rate of collection. In every scenario presented, the recovery of HST paid in the form of rebates will generate an overall net gain for schools, and create administrative efficiencies by reducing the time-consuming task of collecting, depositing and reconciling cash/cheque deposits and mitigate the risks associated with these manual tasks.

Arising from a Board motion, TCDSB staff conducted a consultation effort with the TCDSB Community and all of its stakeholders in order to assess the interest of parents, guardians, staff and students. This report provides the survey results and recommends a plan to implement School Cash Online. The completed survey results indicated that 84.0% [4,247] respondents from a total of 5,056 respondents indicated “Yes” in favour of implementing an online payment processing system which includes a 1% administrative fee on all payments.

B. PURPOSE

1. Several requests by School Principals and Catholic School Parent Councils have been received to date inquiring into the prospect of implementing e-commerce solutions for school banking transactions.
2. The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is currently phasing in the implementation of an e-commerce solution, in their elementary and secondary schools. The availability to conduct business with school communities in a safe and secure manner may be regarded as a competitive advantage which may attract enrolment from parents and guardians concerned with student safety.

C. BACKGROUND

1. The TDSB awarded a Request for Proposal to KEVgroup, which contains a piggy-back clause onto which other District School Boards can take advantage while remaining compliant with the Broader Public Sector Procurement Directive.
2. KEVgroup currently works with 53 Ontario school districts, of which 43 are currently using School Cash Online. School Cash Online is also being implemented in other countries.
3. KEVgroup presented to Education Council on 16 January 2017 and provided an overview of the School Cash Online suite of products and answered questions about how TCDSB could recover the costs of the application.
4. Education Council recognized the need to proceed in this direction and indicated support for this initiative to proceed to Director's Council for review and consideration.
5. A report titled "School Cash Online" was presented to the Board of Trustees during the Regular Board meeting held on February 23rd 2017. The following Board motion was approved:

"That the TCDSB consult with our parent community to gauge interest in this service prior to embarking on the implementation of the School Cash Online suite using scenario number 3 enhanced with credit card option. The addition of alternative payment options may be considered at a later date. That details

in this report and an on-line sample, walking people through the process, be provided to inform comments. Staff to report back with the results of the consultation prior to engaging the firm.”

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. KEVgroup’s School Cash Online suite of integrated accounting and fee management tools provides many advantages some of which include the following:
 - One product solution by one company which is compatible with the existing School Banking Software installed at TCDSB
 - Simple and Easy user interface for schools and parents/guardians
 - Many payment methods available for processing student activity fees
 - Advanced security and higher piece of mind by digitizing school banking transactions
 - Increased communications and messaging provided by automatic email notifications/reminders concerning upcoming events and related fees
 - Integrated charitable donation and receipt generation capability
 - Viewable purchase history by which parents/guardians can print receipts
 - Ability to implement payment plans for higher priced events such as school overnight trips and activity fees
 - Ability for parents without chequing accounts to transfer money to the school through an online account
 - A comprehensive canned suite of reports and analysis tools not currently available in SAP School Banking
 - The ability for one family to manage multiple students at multiple schools with multiple payers from one secure source
2. Parents/Guardians who choose to can still send funds directly to the school as in the past.
3. The annual application costs include the use of eCheque, which allows parents to transfer funds as required from their bank account directly to their School Cash Online myWallet account. Parents/Guardians can then pay for school

related items (pizza lunches, field trips, etc.) directly from myWallet. Parents/Guardians do not have to have a chequing account to use this feature.

4. The application would also allow for the schools to make outgoing payments for invoices received by the school and to track all HST payments on all outgoing payments. This would enable the board to easily apply for HST rebates on behalf of schools. To date it has not been possible to realize the rebates for smaller cost school invoices. Currently, some schools are able to claim HST rebates on high cost invoices through a labour intensive process. Currently, TCDSB is realizing approximately \$150 000 in HST rebates on \$1.5 million of expenditures. By moving to School Cash Online, the TCDSB will have the ability to claim potential rebates on \$20 million of expenditures. These rebates could both pay for the system outright and provide a source of revenue to the schools that has not previously been available to them.
5. Once fully implemented, the annual application fees of \$325,902 (approximately 1% of the TCDSB school generated funds OR approximately \$3.50 per student per year) would be recovered by the addition of an administrative fee (1%) to all prices charged to parents/guardians (For every \$9.90 charge, increase cost by \$0.10 to \$10).
6. The one-time cost of implementation and support from KEVgroup staff would be \$87,600. This can be funded from a small portion of the HST rebates that will be recovered from the school generated funds banking activity.
7. The 1% administrative fee and the HST payment rebates would be held centrally to ensure funds are available to pay for the School Cash Online application. Once all costs are covered, remaining collected amounts would be returned to schools proportionately based on the fees collected through the school generated funds banking accounts.
8. Additional costs are incurred if the board chooses to permit the use of Credit Card payments within the application. To add this functionality, the board would require a third party, online payment provider. The cost to offer this service would amount to approximately 2% per transaction.
9. By using an online payment provider, the Board could also choose to accept Interac Transactions at a cost of \$0.75 per transaction. This option could be pursued at a future date, following a review of administrative fees collected, HST rebates realized and total costs incurred.

10. Summary of all costs:

ONE-TIME COSTS:

- Set up costs (implementation support for Phases 1-2): \$60 600
- Set up support for Phases 3-5 (optional): \$27 000

ONGOING ANNUAL COSTS:

- Annual fees (eCheque and myWallet): \$325 902
- Addition of credit cards payment option: Approx. 2% of costs

11. The various cost recovery options are outlined below in section F.

E. VISION

VISION	PRINCIPLES	GOALS
Provide a cost-effective and safe environment for conducting school business transactions.	Ensuring Stewardship of Resources and Fostering Student Well-being by providing students and staff with safe learning environments	Reduction and/or elimination of cash-handling tasks in school communities in order to mitigate risk and increase student/staff safety. Increase paperless communication home and streamline the reporting process.

F. ACTION PLAN

F. #1 Explanation of Options/Scenarios

#1 Basic Functionality	#2 Enhanced with Credit Card Option	#3 Enhanced with Credit Card Option – less impact on parents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1% administrative fee on all transactions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2% administrative fees on all transactions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1% administrative fee on all transactions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents able to pay through bank transfers (eCheque) to myWallet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents able to pay through bank transfers (eCheque) to myWallet or by credit card 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents able to pay through bank transfers (eCheque) to my Wallet or by credit card
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fee would recover the annual costs of the application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fee would recover annual cost of the application and offset costs of credit card usage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fee would recover annual cost of the application and offset some of the costs of credit card usage
HST rebates, not previously collected, would be collected		
One-Time Costs could be covered through HST rebates		
Remaining funds collected centrally through HST and admin fee would be distributed to schools based on their rate of collection.		
The option of using Interac could be considered at a later date. Interac fees are a flat rate per transaction. As a result they incur a higher cost per transaction on lower cost items, which represent a high proportion of the funds collected by schools.		

G. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- 1) The survey used by TCDSB staff to consult with our parent community in order to gauge interest in this service prior to embarking on the implementation of the School Cash Online suite appears in Appendix A.
- 2) The survey results, appearing in Appendix B, was completed by 4,525 respondents. In the instance where a respondent has more than one child at more than one school, the count of respondents increases to 5,193 because the respondent is counted for each school where they have a child registered.

- 3) The overall survey results, appearing in Appendix B, showed the following responses to the question –
“Knowing that there would be a 1% administration fee on all payments, do you think that the TCDSB should offer this online payment solution to allow parents/guardians to pay for items through bank transfers or credit cards?”
 - A. 84.0% [4,037] of Parents indicated “Yes”
 - B. 79.4% [100] of Students indicated “Yes”
 - C. 87.3% [110] of Employees indicated “Yes”
 - D. 84.0% [4,247] of all respondents indicated “Yes”
- 4) The open-ended comments provided by 20.1% of the respondents appear on page 3 of Appendix B. The largest grouping of comments [376 or 8.3%] were supportive of implementing an online payment system. The second largest grouping of comments [2.7% or 124] suggested that the Board absorb the cost of the online payment application.
- 5) This survey response as a reflection of the overall community opinion, given the sample size and the total population of parents, students and staff surveyed, is accurate to within 2.6%, 95% of the time.

H. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

1. The Secondary Panel presents the greatest opportunity from a dollar volume perspective and maximizes the risk mitigation surrounding cash management.
2. The most successful implementations, as per the experience of the vendor, use a phased approach with the first two phases introducing 25 schools to the application. Additional phases can include 50 schools.
3. Following the suggested implementation plan Phase 1 and 2 would each have 25 schools, phases 3-5 would comprise of approximately 50 schools each.
4. The timeline for implementation would have all schools operational on the application by March 2018.
5. The most successful implementations, as per the experience of the vendor, include secondary schools and their nearby elementary schools. The reason being that parents may have children in both panels. Since our Superintendent

areas are approximately 25 schools each, they would fit with the suggested implementation strategy in #2 above.

6. Strategic engagement of the unions and associations representing the impacted employee groups would be required in order to ensure adequate consultation and implementation.
7. KEVgroup will be providing in-servicing activities and communications strategies as appropriate for the implementation.
8. A communications strategy is required in order to create an awareness of the new service offering, and thereby, ensure a greater buy-in by the TCDSB community.

I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the TCDSB embark on the implementation of the School Cash Online suite using scenario #3 enhanced with credit card option, provided in Section F, and that the addition of alternative payment options be considered at a later date upon further review of annual operational costs.

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School Cash Online Consultation

* I am:

- ☐ A parent of TCDSB student(s)
- ☐ A TCDSB student
- ☐ A TCDSB employee

School Cash Online Consultation

* How many children do you have in TCDSB schools?

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7+

School Cash Online Consultation

* In how many TCDSB schools do you have students registered:

- ☐ My child(ren) all attend 1 school
- ☐ I have children registered in 2 different TCDSB schools
- ☐ I have children registered in more than 2 different TCDSB schools

School Cash Online Consultation

* Please select first school from this list, you will then be taken to another question to add the second school
(Note - Sts. Cosmas and Damien is plural):

School Cash Online Consultation

Please list all TCDSB schools in which you have children registered.(Please use a comma [,] to separate school names)

School Cash Online Consultation

* School (Note - Sts. Cosmas and Damien is plural):

School Cash Online Consultation

- * • TCDSB is considering offering parents/guardians the ability to pay funds electronically to schools, when required.
- Parents/guardians would still have the option to continue to pay in cash, as per past practice.
 - Examples of payments that are often made to schools include but are not limited to: lunch programs, field trips, agenda books, yearbooks, activity fees, etc.
 - The electronic payments could be made from any computer, tablet or smartphone that can connect to the internet with a web browser (Internet Explorer, Edge, Chrome, Safari, Firefox, etc)
 - For larger items such as overnight trips, this online system would also allow parents to pay using installments.
 - The cost of this online application would be 1% added to the total cost of all items.
 - For example, an item that costs \$9.90 would cost \$10.
 - At the time of the purchase, \$9.90 would stay in the school account to pay for the item and \$0.10 would go directly to the TCDSB central account to help offset the cost of the online application.

Payment options would include:

1. Ability to securely transfer funds directly from parent's bank account (no cheque required) to an online 'myWallet' account. Money is kept in parent's 'myWallet' account until parent chooses to pay for an item. When they wish to make a payment to the school, they simply add an item to their shopping cart and pay for it from their 'myWallet' account.
2. Ability to pay with a credit card (VISA or MasterCard).

Knowing that there would be a 1% administration fee on all payments, do you think that the TCDSB should offer this online payment solution to allow parents/guardians to pay for items through bank transfers or credit cards?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Optional: If you wish to add any comments, please do so here

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

Total Number of Respondents = 4525
Representing 197 schools

Respondents	Parents	Students	Employees	Total
Ward 1 Schools Total	306 (91.9%)	18 (5.4%)	9 (2.7%)	333
Ward 2 Schools Total	844 (95.9%)	19 (2.2%)	17 (1.9%)	880
Ward 3 Schools Total	316 (94.9%)	7 (2.1%)	10 (3.0%)	333
Ward 4 Schools Total	227 (91.2%)	13 (5.2%)	9 (3.6%)	249
Ward 5 Schools Total	703 (97.4%)	8 (1.1%)	11 (1.5%)	722
Ward 6 Schools Total	145 (93.5%)	3 (1.9%)	7 (4.5%)	155
Ward 7 Schools Total	434 (94.6%)	12 (2.6%)	13 (2.8%)	459
Ward 8 Schools Total	353 (89.8%)	20 (5.1%)	20 (5.1%)	393
Ward 9 Schools Total	231 (96.3%)	3 (1.3%)	6 (2.5%)	240
Ward 10 Schools Total	284 (95.0%)	8 (2.7%)	7 (2.3%)	299
Ward 11 Schools Total	696 (95.2%)	17 (2.3%)	18 (2.5%)	731
Ward 12 Schools Total	360 (90.2%)	26 (6.5%)	13 (3.3%)	399
Total	4899 (94.3%)	140 (2.7%)	154 (3.0%)	5193

Note: If a parent indicated that they have students at more than one school they are shown as having responded for each school in which they have a child registered. There were 4525 respondents; there were 5193 school selections.

	Parents		Students		Employees		Total	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Ward 1 Schools	242 (80.7%)	58 (19.3%)	11 (78.6%)	3 (21.4%)	6 (66.7%)	3 (33.3%)	259	64
Ward 2 Schools	684 (82.3%)	147 (17.7%)	16 (94.1%)	1 (5.9%)	15 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	715	148
Ward 3 Schools	250 (82.0%)	55 (18.0%)	3 (60.0%)	2 (40.0%)	6 (75.0%)	2 (25.0%)	259	59
Ward 4 Schools	172 (79.3%)	45 (20.7%)	6 (75.0%)	2 (25.0%)	9 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	187	47
Ward 5 Schools	571 (83.0%)	117 (17.0%)	6 (85.7%)	1 (14.3%)	9 (90.0%)	1 (10.0%)	586	119
Ward 6 Schools	115 (81.0%)	27 (19.0%)	1 (50.0%)	1 (50.0%)	5 (83.3%)	1 (16.7%)	121	29
Ward 7 Schools	365 (85.7%)	61 (14.3%)	6 (75.0%)	2 (25.0%)	12 (92.3%)	1 (7.7%)	383	64
Ward 8 Schools	294 (84.5%)	54 (15.5%)	13 (68.4%)	6 (31.6%)	15 (83.3%)	3 (16.7%)	322	63
Ward 9 Schools	197 (86.8%)	30 (13.2%)	2 (66.7%)	1 (33.3%)	5 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	204	31
Ward 10 Schools	239 (86.0%)	39 (14.0%)	5 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (83.3%)	1 (16.7%)	249	40
Ward 11 Schools	592 (86.3%)	94 (13.7%)	13 (86.7%)	2 (13.3%)	11 (78.6%)	3 (21.4%)	616	99
Ward 12 Schools	316 (88.8%)	40 (11.2%)	18 (78.3%)	5 (21.7%)	12 (92.3%)	1 (7.7%)	346	46
Total	4037 (84.0%)	767 (16.0%)	100 (79.4%)	26 (20.6%)	110 (87.3%)	16 (12.7%)	4247	809

Note: Some respondents did not respond to the “Yes/No” question. They are not included in this table.

Comment	Frequency	Percentage of Respondents
Fully support this idea	376	8.3%
The fee should be absorbed by the board	124	2.7%
Should continue to allow the other payment options	95	2.1%
The fee should be less	50	1.1%
I do not support this idea, I am fine with current system	40	0.9%
Prefer credit card option	33	0.7%
The convenience of online payments is great	32	0.7%
PayPal should be an option	22	0.5%
Do not feel online banking system is safe	21	0.5%
Create overall/annual fee	16	0.4%
EFT would be better	15	0.3%
Want more information on platform and reason for fees	13	0.3%
This system allows for tracking (receipts)	13	0.3%
The 1% fee shouldn't go up	11	0.2%
Do not know where this 1% fee goes	7	0.2%
Debit card should be an option	7	0.2%
Not fair to charge fee to people paying cash/cheque	7	0.2%
Consultation with CSPCs on the process is needed	7	0.2%
Fee should be capped at a certain number	6	0.1%
Is the fee a temporary thing?	3	0.1%
Important for children to handle money	3	0.1%
"Square" is a great payment option	2	0.0%
Is there an APP for the platform?	2	0.0%
Does it support all banks?	1	0.0%
It would eat into fundraising profits	1	0.0%
Allow top ups of students accounts	1	0.0%
If paying in installments, do you pay administrative fees every installment?	1	0.0%
Total	909	20.1%

**Written Submissions of The Glen Park Community Association
Regarding the Attendance Boundary Review - St. Gregory, Nativity of Our Lord,
Mother Cabrini, St. Marcellus, Our Lady of Sorrows - Interim Report
(Trustee Wards 1 and 2)
“Recommendation Report”**

**Submitted by President and Spokesperson, Jenny P. Mboutsiadis
March 9, 2017**

The Glen Park Community Association (the “**Association**”) represents over 200 residents who reside within the area bordered by Highway 427, Burnhamthorpe Road, Mimico Creek, and Eglinton Avenue (the “**Glen Park Community**”).

The Association agrees with and strongly supports the recommendations of the staff of the Toronto Catholic District School Board (“**TCDSB**”) as stated on page 73 of the Recommendation Report. In particular, the Association agrees that the attendance boundaries for St. Gregory, Nativity of Our Lord, Mother Cabrini, St. Marcellus and Our Lady of Sorrows remain status quo (unchanged) and that the TCDSB investigate and assess possible locations in the South/Central Etobicoke area for a new elementary school to alleviate enrolment pressures.

We applaud Director Gauthier’s judgment and reasonableness. The TCDSB’s recommendations are the most appropriate, logical, and safe options for the community and, in particular, the community’s children.

The Association devoted a significant amount of time and resources to reviewing and considering the scenarios originally proposed by the staff of the TCDSB and found that all of them would have provided only short term relief to the attendance issues affecting the subject schools while, at the same time, jeopardizing our children’s physical safety and emotional health. The Association expressed its concerns and disagreement with the previously proposed scenarios at the two public meetings held in the fall of 2016.

We take this opportunity to remind the Trustees why altering the boundaries as originally proposed is unacceptable. We submit as follows:

1. CROSSING THE BRIDGE OVER HIGHWAY 427 IS DANGEROUS

Forcing children residing east of Highway 427 to attend a school on the west side of Highway 427 is **dangerous**. The on and off ramps to Highway 427 at both Burnhamthorpe Road and Rathburn Road are very busy, uncontrolled, and create danger zones for all children and for parents with young children and/or strollers. There are no traffic lights, stop signs, yield signs, crosswalks, or crossing guards. There is nothing to slow down or stop the cars travelling at high speeds as they enter or exit Highway 427. The curb height is only 3 inches, whereas curbs are generally at least 6 inches high, and a car crossing the icy bridge in the winter could very easily

skid onto the sidewalk and injure a child as evidenced by skid marks already on the bridge. There are also no permanent barriers installed between the sidewalks and the live traffic lanes on the Rathburn and Highway 427 bridge to protect children from falling into traffic, from cars skidding onto the sidewalks from icy roads, and from wind created by buses and trucks travelling in the curb lanes.

Consequently, it is unsafe for an elementary school aged child to even attempt to cross the highway on and off ramps to get to school. It will also be difficult and dangerous for a parent with young children and/or a stroller to traverse the area.

The peril of these areas are substantiated by the “Traffic Report” produced at page 70 of the Recommendation Report, which states that between 2012 and 2016 there were 6 pedestrian collisions and 2 cyclist collisions. It is further stated that most collisions occurred between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. as well as 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., which are the prime travel times for elementary school children. It must be kept in mind that those collisions occurred during the current scenario in which children are not required to cross over Highway 427 to get to school. It is to be reasonably expected that those numbers would increase if children on the east side of Highway 427 were forced to attend a school on the west side.

An analysis of the elementary school fixed boundary map located on the TCDSB's website evidences that it is uncommon for TCDSB schools to have a boundary that straddles a series 400 highway (being Highways 401, 427, 400 and 404). Of the 43 elementary schools that are in the vicinity of a 400 series highway, only 5 of them have a fixed boundary that straddles a 400 series highway. The remaining 38 elementary schools' fixed boundaries are drawn at the 400 series highway so that children do not have to cross over a highway to get to and from school. Without going into detail as to why 5 catchment areas are permitted to straddle the 400 series highway, the fact that 9 times out of 10 the Board has decreed that the fixed boundary be drawn at the 400 series highway indicates that there is overwhelming support to draw the boundary at the 400 series highway to ensure the safety of our children. The St Gregory/Nativity boundary is presently drawn at Highway 427, which reflects the TCDSB's recognition that the highway presents an extreme hazard for children.

2. BUSSING IS NOT A SOLUTION

Bussing children across Highway 427 for the duration of their elementary school life is not a solution. On the contrary - it creates problems.

First and foremost, in light of the serious bussing issues that have plagued the TCDSB during the last year (including threatened cutbacks and bus driver shortages),¹ students cannot rely on buses to get them to school on time, if at all. On Monday September 19, 2016, CTV news

¹ See Toronto Star article about the TCDSB cutting bussing services:

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2016/06/24/catholic-school-boards-bus-cuts-leave-families-scrambling.html>

See also Global News piece about bus driver shortage causing children to be late or not picked up at all:

<http://globalnews.ca/news/2927053/toronto-public-and-catholic-school-bus-delays-on-sept-8/>

reported that with two weeks of the school year completed, about 1300 students in the TCDSB were still without school buses because of a shortage of school bus drivers and that fixing the problem would take several weeks. Making bussing the only safe option for elementary school aged children to get to and from school will have dangerous repercussions. If children miss their bus, they either have to stay home (possibly unattended) or risk their lives by walking past Highway 427's uncontrolled on and off ramps to get to school. Neither is a favourable scenario.

Making bussing the only safe way to get to school will prohibit children from walking or riding bikes back and forth from school on their own. Children should not be locked into a lifestyle of being bussed to school if they want to walk or ride their bikes. Forced bussing is contrary to the current goal of government and the TCDSB to increase children's physical activity and promote a healthy lifestyle. In fact, in March 2014 Trustee Ann Andrachuk promoted the "Walking School Bus Program" to expand safe walking routes for students. This fact is advertised on Trustee Andrachuk's website at www.annandrachuk.com. Information on the Walking School Bus initiative can be found at www.walkingschoolbus.org. See also "Active & Safe Routes to School" at <http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca/>, which identifies itself as a "community-based initiative that promotes the use of active transportation for the daily trip to school, addressing health, physical activity, and traffic safety issues while taking action on air pollution and climate change." The consensus is that school boards and the community should be promoting opportunities for children to be physically active, not restricting them.

Parents with young children and/or strollers will be prevented from walking their children to and from school. Not everyone wants their child to be bused to school. Many of us want to walk our children.

Forced bussing will prevent older children from participating in after school activities because they will not be able to return home safely after their regular bus has departed.

3. MOVING SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN IS UNACCEPTABLE

It is unethical, contrary to current social values, and obscene to relocate children with special education needs to another school, disrupt their lives, and inconvenience them and their families to make space for children without similar needs.

Nativity of Our Lord has three classrooms in the school with children who receive special education. These classes are: the "Multiple Exceptionality" class; the Behaviour Class; and the "Special Education Class". Two of the classrooms have eight special education students in each and the previously proposed scenarios moved these students to another school in order to free up 40 spots for students from the Glen Park Community. See the meeting notes from the May 16, 2016 'closed' Boundary Review Committee Meeting.² It is inconceivable that anyone would

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<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/PlanningandFacilities/PlanningServices/BoundaryReview/Documents/Boundary%20Review%20Meeting%20-%20May%202016.pdf>

think that moving these special needs children to accommodate children from the other side of the highway is ethically justified.

4. IT REDUCES ECONOMIC DIVERSITY WITHIN THE AFFECTED SCHOOLS

The previously proposed boundary changes would have resulted in St. Gregory's being a school of rich kids and Nativity being a school of poor kids. This is unacceptable and conflicts with current thinking that schools should be made up of mixed income families. Further, it would have been predominantly the poor kids that would have been forced to risk their safety traversing the bridge over Highway 427

Catholic Equity and Inclusive Education Policy H.M. 24 embraces diversity, including the dimension of socio-economic status. The previously proposed boundary scenarios directly conflict with Policy H.M. 24. Based on Statistics Canada data, currently both St Gregory's and Nativity's catchments have at least 22.5% of students from Low Income Measurement households. The previously proposed scenarios would have resulted in Nativity having at least 29% (or 3 in 10) students from Low Income Measurement households, whereas St Gregory would have less than 10% (or only 1 in 10) such students. Consequently, the St Gregory enrolment derived from "poor kids" would have been halved, while Nativity's enrolment derived from "poor kids" would have increased by a third.

5. COMMUNITY HEALTH AND UNITY

Families moved into the area east of Highway 427 expecting that their children would attend St. Gregory. Many people invested their life savings to be in a community where their children can attend a nearby school and play with neighbourhood friends. Forcing children to be bussed to and from school will drastically limit their children's abilities to form friendships with children at their school as well as with children in their neighbourhood. They would not be able to stay and play with their school friends because they would have to go home right after school on the bus. No more going to a friend's house after school to play. Then, when they are in their own neighbourhood, they would not know the neighbourhood kids because they do not go to school with them. Any scenario that relies on bussing over the Highway 427 bridge would have a detrimental social effect on our children.

6. MIMICO CREEK AS A BOUNDARY LINE IS INAPPROPRIATE

The TCDSB identified Mimico Creek as one side of the previously proposed boundary based on its perception that it is "natural barrier between communities". However, it is just the opposite. It is a harmonizing influence that pulls the community together through parkland, trails, and outdoor activities. Using it as a school boundary sends a disturbing message to the community and is a disruptive influence on how our community is bound together. In contrast, Highway 427 is a very real physical and psychological barrier and the logical school boundary dividing line.

7. NATIVITY ALREADY HAS FOUR PORTABLES

The stated purpose of the previously proposed scenarios was to decrease St Gregory's enrolment and increase Nativity's enrolment. Nativity currently has four portables. St Gregory has no portables. It is highly questionable that Nativity is not at capacity if it already has four portables and draws into question whether Nativity could physically accommodate the projected 203 students³ that would eventually be redirected from St Gregory.

8. IT IS UNDESIRABLE TO FORCE FAMILIES TO SWITCH PARISHES

The integration of family, school, and church is an important facet of instilling a sense of community in a child. Most students at St. Gregory attend St. Gregory parish, regardless of parish boundaries. Many students in St. Gregory have grandparents, other family members, and neighbours in the parish. They see their fellow classmates with their families in Church, which greatly adds to their sense of belonging in the community. For students residing on the east side of Highway 427, but attending Nativity of our Lord school on the west side of Highway 427, the previously proposed boundary scenarios would result in parents having to choose church membership between St. Gregory and Nativity parishes. The effect of this would be to have to choose between classmates at Nativity, or family and neighbours at St Gregory. This is divisive instead of unifying.

9. A SCHOOL AUDIT IS AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO REDUCE ENROLLMENT PRESSURES

According to page 53 of the Boundary Review Binder, St. Gregory had 51 out of area students knowingly enrolled in it during the 2015-2016 school year. Many of these are students enrolled in the Extended French program. The Association has received information that there are many out of area students enrolled at St. Gregory of which the school is completely unaware. Some of these students live in Bolton, Milton, Vaughan, Mississauga, and parts of Toronto far away from St. Gregory. As a first step, out of area enrollment should be discontinued altogether. Current out of area students who are known to the school should be allowed to complete their education at St. Gregory as long as they are in the Extended French program. Any out of area student not in the Extended French program who is not otherwise validly attending the school for a reason permitted under the TCDSB's attendance policy should be removed from the school so that they can return to their own local school. The school should conduct a thorough audit of all the students to identify out of area students who are improperly attending the school and have them redirected to their neighbourhood school. This will alleviate some of the enrolment pressures at the school.

Conclusion

We reiterate that we support the staff of the TCDSB's recommendation that the attendance boundaries for St. Gregory, Nativity of Our Lord, Mother Cabrini, St. Marcellus and Our Lady of

³ Boundary Review Binder, p. 82.

Sorrows remain status quo (unchanged) and that the TCDSB investigate and assess possible locations in the South/Central Etobicoke area for a new elementary school to alleviate enrolment pressures.

We thank you for considering our submissions.

Jenny P. Mboutsiadis
President and Spokesperson
Glen Park Community Associations

Melissa Giglio

Response to the Proposed St. Gregory Boundary Changes and support for The Director's Report to keep status quo

This proposed boundary change puts the lives of children, my children at risk. I understand that there are overcrowding concerns at the school but redirecting a community is not the answer. I support the Director Of Education's recommendation to leave the boundaries status quo and find alternative solutions to the overcrowding issues at St. Gregory.

As set out in board report:

Bussing across major highways is NOT acceptable. I understand that there is overcrowding concerns but that does not mean you can put our most vulnerable people at risk forcing elementary aged students across the 427. When looking at meeting notes, from the beginning of this process it seems that not one person brought up the fact that this is extremely dangerous. However, someone did bring up the fact it would be dangerous for the students crossing Eglinton to get to St. Marcellus. It seems to me that the committee sat down and said this community is going to be redirected over the highway as all scenarios at the start of this process redirected this area across the highway with no thought of how dangerous this would be. I was also surprised to hear at the last meeting that the board was only now looking into police reports regarding the safety risk of our children.

Moving special needs programs is detrimental and disruptive to our child. I am a teacher and I cannot believe that this was even considered an option. Again, putting our most vulnerable at risk.

I realize that there is a real problem in schools when enrolment numbers are too high. I agree that it is important the board come up with a long term solution. As mentioned in the board report and discussed at previous meetings, what this area needs is a new school.

Melissa Giglio

Response to the Proposed St. Gregory Boundary Changes and support for The Director's Report to keep status quo

I would like to take a moment to share with you my personal experience crossing the 427 bridge. When my son was born my mother and I decided to get out of the house and take a walk. We crossed the bridge with my stroller and I was terrified the whole time. I ran with my stroller across both on and off ramps, waiting till there was an opportunity to cross, terrified that a car would turn the corner and head for the ramp. When I walked over the bridge and the cars were racing below me I started to have a panic attack. By the time we were halfway across, I turned around with my mother and said I can't do this. We went across that on ramp again. I said to my mother that day there is no way I will ever go near that ramp again. When I first heard about the potential boundary change I immediately recalled that experience and thought I cannot believe that this is even an option.

Before you vote of this boundary change I ask that each and every one of you, drive down to The East Mall and Rathburn, park your car and walk across the Rathburn bridge over the 427. While you are crossing ask yourself would I be ok with sending MY children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews across this bridge? Will I be ok having this on my conscientious should anyone be hurt or killed crossing this bridge to receive their Catholic education?

Thank you for your time.

Dear Catholic Trustees

Although unable to attend tonight's board meeting, we would like to add our voices to support the recommendation of Director Gauthier to leave the boundary as is for now.

Ironically, the originally proposed boundary review created much angst and divisiveness within the St. Gregory community and really would not have resolved the long term pressure on schools in central Etobicoke. The two community meetings and ensuing discussions created much tension and conflict. Good will and support for Catholic education is something we can't afford to compromise. Why raise so much anger and resentment when it would be only a band-aid solution to the real problem? An enduring and sustainable solution will be to add another elementary school in this area and we are pleased to hear that this is a consideration for the board to undertake.

Clearly there are enrolment pressures on the schools in our community—while this is problematic, isn't it a good problem to have? It means that Catholic education is still valued and wanted by parents in the area. As TCDSB retirees, we know how hard our TCDSB members work to make the schools wonderful centres of learning and belonging and it is affirming to see that parents want their children to attend their local Catholic school—an extension of their local Parish. The suggestion of dividing the St. Greg's community whereby children's safety to and from school risked being compromised made the TCDSB look like student safety was less than important.

Another Catholic elementary school in the area will undoubtedly relieve some pressure on St. Gregory, Our Lady of Sorrows and Our Lady of Peace—hopefully the proposed boundaries will look at proximity to home and travel routes among the many considerations in any new boundary proposals. A more comprehensive, consultative approach will go far in building and growing support for Catholic education in our communities. Our parent groups can be great partners in this process—let's keep communication open and respectful!

Once again, we appreciate the opportunity of expressing support to keep the St. Gregory boundary as is and look forward to a sustainable long-term solution that we can all embrace.

Warmest regards
Albert and Carmela Giardini

I would like to submit the following regarding the proposed boundary change for St. Gregory school. I will not be able to attend the meeting personally but would like to have the opportunity to submit my question. My family will be there on my behalf in attendance.

I wanted to reiterate the question I posed to the boundary review committee during the first public input meeting:

My question was along the lines of personal accountability. Making a decision to send kids to attend elementary school across the 427 is a big concern of my families. I realize that you have proposed busing as a solution however, there are many concerns with the reliability of this solution along with the potentially fatal outcome should a child miss the bus and have to walk home from their elementary school. This is not a normal boundary review, as the major concern is creating a migration path across a 400 series highway, with no alternate routes or choices. Additionally, there are no options to control any of the four uncontrolled on or off ramps that enter or exit the highway.

That being said, my question was around the personal accountability of each member of the committee and the TCDSB. You have a very difficult decision to make that, in this rare case, takes the safety and lives of children in your hands. While we trust you will make a decision to keep our children safe, should you decide otherwise and decide to force children across the 427, are you, each of you, personally ready to live with the consequences that a child may be injured or killed while walking across the highway? This is not your typical boundary review and forcing children to cross a highway, with four uncontrolled intersections will, at some point, cause injury to a child, parent or caregiver.

The reason this question is personal to my family is that on November 11th, 2015, our Grandmother was walking across Lawrence Avenue and was struck and killed by a distracted driver. When the police arrived on scene, she was still breathing and died shortly after, in the middle of the street, before the ambulance could arrive. I apologize for being graphic but it's something my family and I have had to live with since the accident. We miss her everyday. While she was our Grandmother, I couldn't even imagine if this were to happen to a child.

Please, take this message seriously. It's inevitable that a child will, at some point, miss their bus and decide to walk to or from school. All it takes is one child, to make this decision, and walk across the highway for a fatal accident to happen.

My question again is, should the committee make the decision to send children walking across the highway to their elementary school, is each committee member prepared to live with the consequences should a child be injured or killed while walking to or from their elementary school?

Again, thank you for your time and we, as a community, trust that many of you as parents yourselves, will make the right decision to keep our kids safe.

Regards,

Mark Schmidt

Good afternoon,

On behalf of myself and my wife Anne, we wish to strongly support the interim report and the status quo boundary for St. Gregory. We are located at 297 Burnhamthorpe Road, on the southeastern edge of the area which would have been transferred to Nativity of Our Lord, 3.3 km away. Nativity is the 5th furthest Catholic elementary school from us. We are parents of a 21 month old who would be protected from the proposed boundary change.

Why We Oppose the Boundary Change

Our family's position is that the proposed boundary is unreasonable and unfair to us, for the following reasons:

1. The long distance and highway crossing from our location to Nativity of Our Lord will make it impractical and unsafe for our children to walk or bicycle to school.
2. We are located within the parish boundary for Our Lady of Peace, although St. Gregory is also a practical solution for us. We have no connection with Nativity of Our Lord parish and would never attend it.
3. Our children would be forced to attend a school unrelated to our neighbourhood or parish. This could potentially lead to them being excluded by other children and even bullied.
4. The proposed location would result in a lengthy school bus ride for our children, even while kindergarten aged. Combined with full day kindergarten, this will result in a deeply exhausting experience for our children at a very small age.
5. The proposed location would be very inconvenient for working parents like ourselves to drive and drop off children, and would represent an obstacle to Anna's return to the workforce.
6. The proposed location would make it difficult or impossible for our children to participate in extracurricular activities.
7. Our children will be unfairly singled out for removal from their community and a lengthy, unsafe commute. We do not deserve a vastly inferior educational experience to most other Catholic parents in Etobicoke and Toronto.

8. Although French immersion at Our Lady of Peace is an option, we would expect that a very high percentage of local residents would attempt to place their children in French immersion at Our Lady of Peace. This will lead to increased demand and crowding at Our Lady of Peace.

9. Although the Mimico Creek is allegedly a natural boundary for St. Gregory, it is not a major physical obstacle to us. Highway 427 is a real and dangerous barrier.

Exclusionary Behaviour at St. Gregory

We are also concerned at the exclusionary behaviour and rhetoric of some parents at St. Gregory, and believe that this is inappropriate for a Catholic elementary school that represents the community. We note that a website giving the impression of a private school has been set up that tracks enrollment at the school, giving the impression the school is overcrowded. We also question whether the parent council exercises an inappropriate level of control over discretionary funding of approximately \$60,000 per year, based on our review of the parent council minutes and budget.

Yours truly,

Andrew and Anna Zur

I am submitting this email to show my support of Director Gauthier's recommendation that the boundaries remain status quo for St. Gregory's School, and that other solutions be explored to deal with the high enrollment in the area. I have recently purchased a home in the area and my hope was that my two daughters would be attending St. Gregory's School. I was devastated to find out that I may have to send my children to cross over a 400 series highway to walk to and from school. If my children were attending before/after school programs or missed the bus they would be forced to cross the Rathburn bridge over Highway 427 , which poses many dangers to children. Also, this will prevent my children from being able to embrace the opportunity to be physically active (walking/biking) to school when in later grades. I feel that the Director also understands the problems that changing the St. Gregory's boundary will cause for children and families on the East side of the 427 Highway. In protecting the safety of all children and their caregivers, I ask that the board accepts Director Gauthier's recommendations.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Lisa Schmidt

Attendance boundaries for St. Gregory, Nativity of Our Lord, Mother Cabrini, St. Marcellus and Our Lady of Sorrows

My family purchased a home in the catchment area of St. Gregory last year. One of the myriad reasons we chose to move into the neighbourhood was the assurance that our children would be in the catchment area for St. Gregory. As such,

- I vehemently object to any attendance boundary changes regarding these schools; and
- I support the conclusions of the Interim Report of the Director of Education (January 26, 2017) regarding the above-noted schools and agree the boundaries for these schools should remain unchanged.

I urge the TCDSB to:

- Accept the recommendations of the Interim Report;
- Investigate short-term solutions to address over-enrolment at the relevant schools;
- Explore locations for a new elementary school in the Central Etobicoke area to address long-term enrollment pressures; and
- Immediately commence an audit of all students attending the above-noted schools to ensure that only students residing within the respective attendance boundaries are enrolled in these schools.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Bozek

March 8, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

We are currently out of the country and are unable to attend the upcoming meeting regarding the boundary of St. Gregory C.S but would like to express our support for the continuation of the current boundary, that is, not changing the boundary for the multitude of compelling reasons presented by the community.

We support the recommendations made by Director Gauthier in his Interim Report and trust that the Trustees will approve these recommendations at their next Board meeting on March 30th.

Respectfully,

Gloria & Vlado Vujeva

Dear TCDSB,

My name is Joanna Whittaker and I currently live off of West Deane Park at Rathburn & Martin Grove, which is in the area that the Board is considering removing from the St. Gregory catchment. **I oppose the proposed removal.**

I'm writing to you today because I am unable to attend the public meeting at the Catholic Education Centre to let you know about my extreme disappointment and anger upon hearing of a proposal to change the elementary school boundary for St. Gregory's at Rathburn & Kipling.

When I heard this proposal was being considered, I was devastated. We bought our house in 2015 based on the understanding that our children would attend St. Gregory's. Both of my sons were baptized in St. Gregory Parish and we have been regular parishioners at the church since moving to the area.

My family and I are currently active members of St. Gregory's parish. It wouldn't make sense to attend St. Gregory Parish with my children but then send them to a different school.

How could it possibly be safe for my children, once they are old enough, to cross the 427 bridge to go to school when they want to ride their bikes?

How does the TCDSB expect children from east of Highway 427 to get to and from a school that is west of Highway 427 when there are no safe crosswalks on the bridge?

We have established our roots within the St. Gregory community and we are so happy there. We moved to this area so we can send our children to St. Gregory elementary school. We want our children to attend St. Gregory elementary school and attend weekly mass at St. Gregory Parish.

Please consider alternative solutions such as:

- stricter rules regarding registering and proof of living within the area so that out of boundary children don't displace neighbourhood children
- creating portables or
- building a new school.

If this change is approved, you will see a lot of families upset by this and parents who were intending on financially supporting the Catholic school board will instead enrol their children in public or private school systems. I would likely be one of those parents.

o I do not want my community to be removed from the St. Gregory elementary school boundary.

o Please oppose this boundary change proposal and keep status quo

Joanna Whittaker, CPA, CMA

Hi,

I am writing to you to express my support for the recent recommendation to keep unchanged the attendance boundaries.

1. The attendance boundaries for St. Gregory, Nativity of Our Lord, Mother Cabrini, St. Marcellus and Our Lady of Sorrows remain status quo (unchanged).

Thank you,

Liliana Stoicescu

Dear Committee members:

I am writing with respect to the Strategic Planning and Property Committee meeting this evening at the Catholic Education Centre beginning at 7:00 pm. This pertains to the attendance boundaries for St. Gregory, Nativity of Our Lord, Mother Cabrini and Our Lady of Sorrows.

I am in support of Director Gauthier's recommendation that the boundaries remain status quo and that a new elementary school be investigated. This would be a feasible solution to address the over enrolment at St. Gregory School. Sending students across the very dangerous Highway 427 bridge is not a safe solution! It would create extremely unsafe conditions for students walking across the bridge on a daily basis to get to and from school. In protecting our children, Director Gauthier has made a recommendation that addresses the safety concerns as discussed above.

I strongly urge the Committee, and the Board, to accept Director Gauthier's recommendations. I also support that an audit be performed in order to determine how many students live outside of the St. Gregory School catchment area. This will in the interim aim to address some of the enrolment issues affecting the school.

Thank you,

Lora Hilb