



REPORT TO

## GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

### REVISIONS TO SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW POLICY (S.09)

*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 / NIV*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
February 3, 2016	February 16, 2016	<a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>
J. Ruscitti, Senior Manager, Planning Services C. Kavanagh, Senior Manager, Employee Relations and Policy Development P. Matthews, General Legal Counsel, Corporate Services M. J. Silva, Comptroller Planning and Development Services		
<h4>RECOMMENDATION REPORT</h4>		

**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 rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.*



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## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The proposed School Accommodation Review Policy (S.09) has been revised in accordance with the Governance and Policy Committee's direction at its meeting held on January 27, 2016.

## **B. PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide for the consideration of the Governance and Policy Committee, a revised draft of the School Accommodation Review Policy (S.09) which reflects the changes requested by the Committee at its meeting of January 27, 2016.
2. Arising from discussion at its meeting of January 27, 2016, Governance and Policy Committee also requested confirmation that school boards' pupil accommodation review and facility partnerships policies must conform to the Ministry's Guidelines (issued March 2015) before boards can announce any new pupil accommodation reviews.
3. In addition, Governance and Policy Committee requested further discussion on the modified accommodation review process and whether it can be excluded entirely from the Policy.

## **C. COMMENT**

1. At its meeting held on January 27, 2016, the Governance and Policy Committee considered the report *School Accommodation Review Policy (S.09)* and approved the following.

“...that staff come back to the next Governance and Policy Committee with an amended proposed policy based on the following feedback provided by Trustees who have expressed concern around the broadness of the definition of modified process:

1. Under the ARC Process 1(c)(ii) the membership of the ARC to include at least 2 parent representatives and one community representative.

2. Under ARC Process 1(f)(iv) add the words “and notice has been provided to the school community” at the end of the sentence.
  3. Under ARC Process 1(g)(ii), second bullet point, add the words “any recommendations which the Committee by consensus asked to be included”.
  4. Under ARC Process 1(h)(i) and (ii), add the words “including written notice to school and the surrounding communities” after the first sentence.”
2. A side-by-side comparison of the policy proposed by staff with the revised proposal incorporating changes requested by Governance and Policy Committee is presented in *Appendix ‘A’*. A standalone document of the policy reflecting the Committee’s changes is provided in *Appendix ‘B’*.
  3. Trustees are referred to the previous report considered at the January 27, 2016 meeting of Governance and Policy Committee if reference to other appendices is necessary. Appendices included in the previous report are as follows.
    - Appendix ‘A’ - School Accommodation Review Policy (S.09) - current Policy*
    - Appendix ‘B’ - Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (March 2015)*
    - Appendix ‘C’ - Pupil Accommodation Review Process: Standard and Modified Review Process (flowchart)*
    - Appendix ‘D’ - Ministry of Education Administrative Review of Accommodation Review Process*
    - Appendix ‘E’ - Proposed School Accommodation Review Policy (S.09)*
    - Appendix ‘F’ - Sequence of Events Prior to Initiation of Accommodation Review (flowchart)*
  4. In Ministry Memorandum 2015: B09 to Directors of Education dated March 26, 2015 regarding *Release of New Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline and Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline*, it states as follows:

“The PARG and CPPG continue to represent a framework of **minimum** standards for school boards to meet in developing their pupil accommodation review and facility partnerships policies. **School boards are expected to amend their existing pupil accommodation review and facility partnerships policies to reflect the changes incorporated into the new PARG and CPPG before announcing any new pupil accommodation reviews.**”

5. A major concern of the Committee with the staff proposal is the flexibility available to the Board to initiate a modified accommodation review if two or more of the criteria (used to assess whether such a review is warranted) are satisfied. It should be noted that the option for a school board to initiate a modified approach was one of the major changes introduced by the Ministry in its new Guidelines resulting from school board and stakeholder feedback from previous accommodation reviews. It should be further noted that the Ministry Guidelines do not obligate the Board to undertake a modified accommodation review if two or more of the criteria are met; the Board may still elect to initiate the longer, standard review process.
6. The major differences between the standard and modified accommodation review process is that the standard process requires the establishment of an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) and a minimum of two public meetings, whereas the modified approach does not require the establishment of an ARC, and requires a minimum of one public meeting.
7. While the standard approach may provide a greater level of confidence with the review process, and it would be entirely up to the Board of Trustees to decide whether to proceed with this approach, it would be in the Board’s interest to have the modified approach available to implement in certain situations, if and when necessary.
8. Having the modified process available as an option in the Policy, to use only under certain circumstances if two or more of the specified criteria are satisfied, and electing not to use the modified approach does not contravene the Policy, but by not having it available as an option, the Board’s hands would be tied in situations where the modified approach would be the better choice.

9. Staff at the Ministry of Education have confirmed with staff that the modified approach, available as an option to the Board, may be excluded entirely from the Policy, if the Board so chooses. However, in the opinion of Ministry staff, this would not be in the Board's interest.
10. The suggestion was made at Governance and Policy Committee to make the criteria exceedingly difficult to satisfy so that the initiation of a modified review would rarely occur. This however, would defeat the whole purpose of the modified process in those situations where it would be in the Board's interest to pursue such an approach.

#### **D. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Pupil Accommodation Review Policy (S.09), as contained in *Appendix 'B'* of this report be approved for consultation.
2. That public consultation occur at the level of 'consult' as defined in the Board's Community Engagement Policy (T.07).