



REPORT TO

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS – ST. BRIGID

"Enlarge the site of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes." Isaiah 54:2

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
March 26, 2018	April 5, 2018	Click here to enter a date.

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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.



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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Parent delegations from the St. Brigid area were received at the March 22, 2018 meeting of the Board. Concerns were raised about the demand on the new French Immersion program to be implemented in September 2018 including the overall impact on the school. Delegates also expressed concern for students who have been waitlisted for the English program. The matter was referred to staff to evaluate options to accommodate enrolment pressures at St. Brigid.

Based on an analysis of options to effectively deal with the Wait List applicants at St. Brigid, it is recommended that a French Immersion program be implemented at Holy Name in September 2018 and that an SK/1 split class be implemented for the English program at St. Brigid.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 20 hours

B. PURPOSE

1. This report has been prepared to evaluate options available for accommodation of students currently waitlisted for the St. Brigid English and French Immersion programs.

C. BACKGROUND

1. **December 7, 2017** – at Student Achievement and Well Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee, the Board approved the report ‘*French Immersion Consultation Results*’. The Board approved St. Brigid as a location for implementation of a French Immersion program for September 2018.
2. **January 9, 2018** - A French Immersion Information night was held at St. Brigid. Information was provided concerning registration requirements and process, program benefits and impact on the school facility.
3. St. Brigid has a total of five (5) Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) classrooms, three (3) are designated for English programming and two (2) are designated for French Immersion programming.
4. St. Brigid has a Ministry rated capacity of 669 pupil places. Five (5) FDK spaces when fully subscribed generates an enrolment of approximately 725 students over a 10-year period. By maximizing classroom allocations to the

Collective Bargaining Agreement caps, the facility is of a sufficient size to accommodate this projected growth. The Board approved 3-year Projections already forecast an increase in enrolment over the 3-year period.

2018	2019	2020
639	662	690
96%	99%	103%

5. Given the above, additional FDK classes are not sustainable in the existing facility over time and the site does not have room to accommodate portable classrooms as they would severely limit the available play space. Additionally, added FDK classes would increase the overall enrolment to well over 900 students, which is not an ideal elementary school size.
6. St. Brigid has currently placed students to a maximum capacity in the English and French Immersion programs. The remaining registrations are currently waitlisted as follows:

	Priority							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Regular		21	6	1	3			31
F.I.		2	29	1		3		35

7. School staff are instructed to advise parents that they are able to remain on a waitlist until the end of April as per policy. Placement may be offered at that time only if there is availability. Parents are encouraged to secure a placement in the regular program at their home school location.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. The Registration Team has reviewed the English program waitlist and available space at St. Brigid. A new SK/1 split class will be created to accommodate the Priority#2 students on the waitlist.
2. Due to the demand for French Immersion in this area, three (3) other area schools were assessed for sufficient space to accommodate a French Immersion program. It is assumed in the analysis below that an FDK class for French Immersion would be in addition to the current school configuration.

CANADIAN MARTYRS C.S.

The school has a Ministry rated capacity of 415 pupil places. It has currently been allocated two (2) FDK classes and an SK/1 split class. Board approved projections indicate an enrolment increase mainly attributable to a recent boundary change. The current facility can accommodate the projected enrolment.

	2018	2019	2020
Projection	355	372	385
Util.	86%	90%	93%
FI Impact	384	416	444
Util.	93%	100%	107%

Assessment

The addition of one (1) FDK class to accommodate French Immersion would have the following impacts:

- Three (3) FDK classes will generate a student population approaching 440 students exceeding the available school capacity.
- Classroom modifications would be required to create the additional class at a cost of approximately \$175K
- Additional teaching space would be required in 3 years to accommodate the growth of the program.
- The addition of portables to the site would require placement on the playfield that received site work of approximately \$200K including the creation of a running track

HOLY CROSS C.S.

The school has a Ministry rated capacity of 493 pupil places. It has currently been allocated three (3) FDK classes, which is appropriate for a school of this size. Early registration figures indicate that these three (3) spaces will fully utilized in the 2018-19 school year. Board approved projections indicate a slight decline in enrolment.

	2018	2019	2020
Projection	350	326	324
Util.	71%	66%	66%
FI Impact	379	370	383
Util.	77%	75%	78%

Assessment

The addition of one (1) FDK class to accommodate French Immersion would have the following impacts:

- Four (4) FDK classes will generate a student population approaching 580 students, exceeding the available school capacity.
- Classroom modifications would be required to create the additional class at a cost of approximately \$150K as well as upgrades to the current FDK rooms as the rooms are not currently built to Board standard. Holy Cross was part of the Year 1 FDK implementation phase where very little Capital improvements were made to accommodate the program.
- Portable classrooms could be placed on site to accommodate future growth.

HOLY NAME C.S.

The school has a Ministry rated capacity of 538 pupil places. It has currently been allocated two (2) FDK classes which is low for a facility of this size. Board approved projections indicate a slight increase in enrolment over a three year period.

	2018	2019	2020
Projection	318	320	325
Util.	59%	59%	60%
FI Impact	347	364	384
Util.	64%	68%	71%

Assessment

The addition of one (1) FDK class to accommodate French Immersion would have the following impacts:

- Three (3) FDK classes will generate a student population approaching 440 students which can be accommodated in the existing facility with minimal requirements for modification in future years.
- Classroom modifications required to create the additional class would be minimal as a suitable sized room already exists on the ground floor in the Kindergarten wing. The cost to modify the existing room to add a washroom would be approximately \$50K.
- Holy Name is located along the Danforth Avenue corridor and is easily accessible by public transit.

3. Analysis of the above indicates that Holy Name provides the best current and future accommodation options for a French Immersion program to accommodate the waitlisted students at St. Brigid. An SK/1 split class will be implemented at St. Brigid to accommodate the English program waitlist.

E. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

1. Upon approval of implementation of a new French Immersion program at Holy Name, **consultation** will occur with the Holy Name community.
2. Parents on the French Immersion waitlist at St. Brigid will be contacted individually by Admissions staff.
3. Community notification letters will be distributed to the Holy Name and St. Brigid communities.
4. French Immersion options will be added to the SOAR program for Holy Name.

F. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That French Immersion be implemented at Holy Name for September 2018.
2. That an SK/1 split class be implemented at St. Brigid for the English program for September 2018.
3. That, upon approval, the recommended communication strategy be implemented as soon as possible.
4. That, if approved, necessary FDK modifications be made to the Holy Name facility to accommodate implementation of the French Immersion program.