

Community Update - March 8, 2013

Introduction

The process for the North Barrie Pupil Accommodation Review (NBPAP) was completed with the board of trustees' decision at the February 27, 2013 board meeting. While a decision has been made, there are still many steps that must be taken over the coming months in order for us to implement the decisions made by the trustees. We remain committed to communicating with our school communities that will be affected by these decisions. We will provide regular written updates in the coming months. As we move through the process, we will work with your school principals to ensure you are kept up-to-date on our progress.

Board Decision

After a 21-month process for the NBPAP, the trustees made the following decisions on February 27, 2013:

- None of the six schools included in the NBPAP will be closed
- The second floor of Monsignor Clair Catholic School (MCL) will be converted to work space to accommodate the board's academic services staff currently housed at the Bell Farm location – occupancy date is anticipated in spring 2014
- The lease at Bell Farm will be terminated resulting in savings of approximately \$200,000 annually for the board
- The second floor of MCL will be vacated summer 2013
- There will be new boundaries for MCL and St. Monica's Catholic Schools. Some students will transfer from MCL to St. Monica's for September 2013
- Four classrooms at St. Joseph's Catholic High School will be renovated to accommodate meeting room and training space required by the board
- New boundaries were approved for The Good Shepherd and St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic Schools to ease overcrowding at The Good Shepherd – transfer of students and families will be completed for September 2014

Next Steps

These are some of the steps that have been taken or will be taken to implement the changes resulting from the board's decision:

- Notices of the board's decision have been sent to various community partners including the local parishes, the City of Barrie, County of Simcoe and childcare facilities
- The Ministry of Education was advised of the board's decision on February 27, 2013 and staff requested their approval of the move of academic services staff to MCL

Relocating Academic Services Staff to MCL

The following steps begin the process of moving the academic services staff to the second floor of MCL:

- A "user group" has been established with representatives from the academic services staff to discuss the plans
- An architect for the second floor plans has been advised of the board's decision and plans will be reviewed with an architect following the user group consultations

- Board staff are in discussions with the City of Barrie regarding re-zoning requirements
- Overflow parking options are being pursued
- A meeting will be arranged in March with MCL staff and the Catholic School Community Council to discuss plans
- A school sub-committee will be struck in the fall 2013 that will include representatives from MCL community and board staff to discuss the project (i.e., security, etc.)

Transfers Resulting from Boundary Reviews

- Students and families that will be transferred from MCL to St. Monica's Catholic School for September 2013 will receive written notification of the move early April 2013 – more details on transfers and/or potential boundary exemptions will be provided to the MCL community following March break

St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic School

Activities related to changes for this school include:

- The driveway project went out to tender to secure a contractor on March 5th
- The tender closing date is March 26th
- Re-zoning discussions with the City of Barrie are being coordinated by board staff
- Plans are to begin the work in early July 2013

St. Joseph's Catholic High School

As the board's staff training and large group meetings will occur at St. Joseph's, steps needed include:

- Discussions about the project with the school community
- Design concepts for the meeting/training rooms are currently being developed with the architect
- Work begins this summer 2013 to revitalize St. Joseph's including enhanced program spaces, new school entrance, improvements to mechanical and building systems, etc.
- This will continue the board's long-term commitment to secondary Catholic learning at St. Joseph's

Conclusion

These are some of the activities that are occurring following the trustees' decision on the NBPAP. Other steps will unfold in the coming weeks and we will ensure that our families, staff and students receive regular updates as we work through the various projects. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please send them to your principal. We will work with all of the NBPAP principals to ensure your questions are addressed through our regular updates.

We look forward to continuing our work with our school communities to ensure we provide the best Catholic learning environments for our students.

