



Peterborough Victoria
Northumberland and Clarington
Catholic District School Board



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Media Release

February 27, 2018

For Immediate Release

PVNC Board votes on Cobourg Catholic Elementary Schools Accommodation Review

Board of Trustees approves the closure of St. Michael Catholic Elementary School in Cobourg

COBOURG – On March 28, 2017 the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington (PVNC) Catholic District School Board approved a motion to establish an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) and “initiate a school accommodation review involving St. Michael, St. Joseph and Notre Dame Catholic elementary schools in Cobourg.” The work of the ARC began on May 15, 2017 and concluded with a presentation of the Final Staff Report to the Board of Trustees on January 23, 2018.

That report, along with all other documentation pertaining to the ARC process including timelines, can be viewed on our website at: pvn.cc/cobourgARC

On Monday, February 26, 2018, the Board of Trustees approved the recommendations of the Final Staff Report via the following motions:

1. *THAT the Board of Trustees approves the closure of St. Michael Catholic Elementary School and transfer of the French Immersion program to Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School to create a dual track (French & English) school. This motion is subject to the Ministry of Education approval and completion of capital improvements at Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School.*
2. *THAT the Board of Trustees approves the revision of the French Immersion catchment area to reflect movement of the French Immersion program to Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School. This catchment area revision is subject to the Ministry of Education approval and completion of capital improvements at Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School.*
3. *THAT the Board of Trustees approves the implementation of a boundary change for English track students at Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School and St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School as outlined in the Initial Staff Report, Option 4 - proposed new school boundaries. This boundary change will become effective as of the approval of the Cobourg Catholic Elementary Schools Accommodation Review Final Staff Report (Feb. 26, 2018).*

4. *THAT the Board of Trustees approves, on a without prejudice basis, to provide all current families affected by the Notre Dame - St. Joseph Catholic elementary schools boundary change, the option of continuing attendance at Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School as outlined in the Final Staff Report - Guiding Principles.*
5. *THAT the Board of Trustees approves and directs staff to submit a business case to the Ministry of Education during the next round of submissions for capital facility improvements at Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School in the following priority:*
 - (1) *New replacement school.*
 - (2) *New addition and facility improvements.*

ARC BACKGROUND:
March 28, 2017 Initial Staff Report
January 23, 2018 Final Staff Report

As noted in the above motions, the closure of St. Michael CES and the subsequent movement of those students to Notre Dame CES will NOT occur until such time as funding for capital improvements is approved by the Ministry of Education, and construction is completed at the Notre Dame site. Effectively, it is business as usual for at least the next two school years.

Existing Notre Dame CES families that are impacted by the boundary shift to St. Joseph CES will be individually contacted in the near future, and will be asked to indicate their preferences for school attendance for the 2018/19 school year. New families moving into the revised school catchment area will attend St. Joseph CES from this point forward.

“Closing a school is perhaps the most difficult decision for a school board to make, however, we look forward to the exciting possibilities and many long-term benefits for the Catholic elementary school communities in Cobourg as we move forward,” said Board Chairperson Michelle Griepsma.

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