



*The Northwest Catholic
District School Board*

Accommodation Review Committee Report to the Board

BACKGROUND

On January 15, 2013, The Northwest Catholic District School Board at the Regular meeting of the Board, Trustees approved an accommodation review (AR) to determine the future of Our Lady of the Way School. The Board under the direction of the Ministry of Education accommodation review process and following Board Administrative Procedure, D-10 gave direction to the senior administrative team to strike and appoint community and other members to an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) to begin meeting as early as mid-February 2013.

The Accommodation Review Committee was composed of the following:

Father Alan Albao	Diocesan Representative
Tara Hunter	First Nation and Rainy River First Nation Representative
Sandy Nielson	Parent Representative
Jack Vandenbrand	Parent Representative
Mark Hyatt	Community Representative
Anthony Leek	Community Representative
Mary O'Connor	Community Representative
M.C. Kelly	Director of Education
Chris Howarth	Superintendent of Business
Darlene Fejos Rousseau	School Principal
Nicole Wood	Teacher Representative

Public Consultation Sessions were held on the following days:

Wednesday, February 20, 2013
Wednesday, March 20, 2013 - 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 23, 2013 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 29, 2013 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday, June 26, 2013 - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. (Revised)
Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Further information on the ARC process is available at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/reviewguide.html> and Board Administrative Procedure, D-10, Pupil Accommodation Review. [Board Administrative Procedure, D-10, Pupil Accommodation Review](#)

OUR LADY OF THE WAY SCHOOL PROFILE

For the 2013/14 school year the learning environment at the school involves multiple grades with one teacher and an administrator on site. The school EQAO data for grades 3 and 6 students is suppressed as the minimum number of participating students for the publication of achievement results is 10. Special Education support for students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) is provided through intervention with the school Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) with intervention strategies extended in an inclusive classroom environment.

The School Improvement Plan (SIP) has been developed to meet the learning environment of the students at OLOW and consists of a variety of pedagogical approaches which includes differentiated / personalized instruction for the multi grade classrooms and the implementation of the Daily Five, a reading strategy used daily. For the 2013-14 school year the course and program offerings included a classroom with seven grade levels (Junior kindergarten, kindergarten, 1,3,5,6,8), an NSL program for all students, one dedicated Special education resource teacher. There is no FSL program.

The physical space of the school can support student learning and is not an issue. The gym, the classrooms (K, two other classrooms and NSL room) and the office allow for plenty of space to support student learning.

For the 2013-14 two classrooms have been closed to keep heating costs down and custodial time minimized. The outside physical environment is flat, grassy, and conducive to healthy daily exercise and play for students and supports healthy physical activity and extracurricular activities for the students of the school and is not an issue. Accessibility of the school for students with disabilities is not an issue unless the custodian (who only works for four hours per day) is not on shift to clear the snow in winter. Safety of the school is not an issue as the facility has been well maintained up to this school year.

Currently, all students are bussed to the school. The school serves a rural farming community so the students are bussed to school and travel from the communities of Rainy River 10 to 25km (Manitou FN) to attend OLW. If students had to travel to EMO for schooling, they would travel further to attend school. It must be noted that if students were to travel to the next Catholic school some would have to travel by bus up to 89 km one way.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee discussed the details that they would like to include in the motion to the Board and the format of the motion. The following recommendations are unanimously submitted:

1. That The Northwest Catholic District School Board keeps Our Lady of the Way School open as a JK-8 school.
2. That The Northwest Catholic District School Board commits to a minimum of two classrooms in Our Lady of the Way School.
3. That a school action plan be developed for implementation in 2013-2014 to support a strong parish, community and school relationship that focusses on strengthening the relationship with existing families and attracting new students and families.
4. That The Northwest Catholic District School Board commits to review the ARC process to identify the strengths and concerns of the existing ARC process.

Accommodation Review Committee Data Review:

✓ Indicates level of committee agreement:

Six (6)✓ represents highest level of committee agreement while zero (0) checkmarks represents lowest level of committee agreement

Decision to Keep School Open			
Strengths		Concerns/Weaknesses	
Value for Student:			
✓✓✓✓✓ ✓	Small class size – more one-on-one time with teacher.	✓✓✓	Lack of peer interaction.
✓✓✓✓✓	Provides a faith based Catholic education and spiritual development.	✓✓✓	Lack of students.
✓✓✓	Good interaction between older and younger students.		Few Catholic students.
✓✓✓	Create a sense of school community.	✓✓✓✓✓	Not enough students for, and lack of, team sports available.
✓✓✓✓✓	Lots of space i.e. in classroom and playground/green space.	✓✓✓✓	Because of low enrolment some courses aren't offered.
✓✓✓✓✓	Up-to-date computers & SmartBoards in the classrooms.	✓✓✓	Difficult for teacher to meet learning needs with all grades in one classroom
✓✓✓	Good gym, computer lab.	✓✓✓	Teacher support may stay at a

Decision to Keep School Open			
Strengths		Concerns/Weaknesses	
			minimum due to low amount of students, which could negatively affect workers due to fatigue and burnout.
✓✓✓	Positive learning environment.	✓✓✓	Single classroom for six grades.
✓✓✓	Central location for students in west end of district.		
✓✓✓	Students who needed and received extra support from the school may continue.		
✓✓✓	Opportunity to develop more and better extra-curricular activities where possible.		
✓✓✓	Sacramental preparation to students (1 st Communion/Confirmation)		
Value to the School Board:			
✓✓✓✓	Continued Catholic education in the west end of the district.	✓✓✓✓✓	More money going out than coming in. Continued deficit if enrolment doesn't increase sooner than later.
✓✓✓✓	Continued support across the district for Catholic education.	✓✓✓✓✓	Money needed for upgrading/making improvements.
✓✓✓	Only Catholic school in the west end of the district.	✓✓✓✓	Board currently viewed with 'residual negativity'.
✓✓✓	School is in good condition.	✓✓✓✓	Board didn't have to go to ARC but chose to. Why not address concerns?
✓✓✓	Board cannot offer an alternative for Catholic Education.	✓✓✓	Board is hoping we 'offer ideas that will help keep the school viable'.
✓✓✓	Plenty of space and good school yard.	✓✓✓✓	Cannot offer all courses.
✓✓✓	No safety issues, handicap accessible.		Board may not be willing to find a solution to the one classroom issue due to increased costs if changed.
✓✓✓	Gives time to the Principal, the Board and the staff to help recruit more students and enhanced learning.	✓✓✓	Not as many programs.
✓✓✓	Board hears community concerns.		
✓✓✓	Public will see that the Board is willing to try to make things work.		
Value to the Church:			
	Provide Catholic education and spiritual development		
✓✓✓✓✓	Provide firm Catholic convictions – 'moral intelligence of children'		
✓✓✓	'Triad' in 'faith based education' – school, home, church.		
✓✓✓	Create opportunities for young people to interact with parish priest.		
✓✓✓	Promotes attendance at local churches.		
✓✓✓✓	Strong connection with church, CWL, K		

Decision to Keep School Open			
Strengths		Concerns/Weaknesses	
	of C's.		
✓✓✓	Affords parents the opportunity to send their children to a Catholic Schools.		
✓✓✓✓	School is used by Church, CWL & K of C		
✓✓✓	Catholic education is important part of parish life.		
Value to the Community:			
✓✓✓	Revenue from taxes.	✓✓✓	Impasse between the parents/school and board level.
✓✓✓✓✓	Facility for community use – Tae Kwon Do, teas, etc.		
✓✓✓	May be only school in the area.		
✓✓✓✓✓	Attracts & retains families/businesses in the community.		
✓✓✓	Enhances real estate values.		
✓✓✓	Public is invited to school functions.		
✓✓✓	Provides employment for local community.		
✓✓✓	School grounds available for recreational use.		
Value to the Local Economy			
✓✓✓✓	Jobs – teaches, bus drivers, custodians.		
✓✓ ✓✓✓✓	Enhanced real estate values.		
✓✓✓	Facility for training opportunities.		
✓✓✓✓✓✓	Increased revenue for other businesses-restaurant, gas station, post office		
✓✓ ✓✓✓✓	Only school in the municipality.		
✓✓✓✓✓	School is a significant employer		
✓✓✓	Helps maintain services in the community		
✓✓✓	Taxes		

Accommodation Review Committee Data Review

✓ Indicates level of committee agreement:

Six (6)✓ represents highest level of committee agreement while zero (0) checkmarks represents lowest level of committee agreement

Decision to Close School			
Strengths		Concerns/Weaknesses	
Value for Student:			
✓✓✓	Fewer grades per classroom.	✓✓✓✓✓	No Catholic education/spiritual guidance (no communion, confirmation)
✓✓✓	More opportunities – sports, music.		Lose connection with parish priest.
✓✓✓	One classroom with multi-grades	✓✓✓✓	Lack of teacher supervision/involvement.

Decision to Close School			
Strengths		Concerns/Weaknesses	
	makes instruction difficult.		Reduces opportunities for one-on-one instruction.
✓✓✓	Not enough students for team sports.		Lose connection with Catholic community.
✓✓✓	Some courses are not offered.	✓✓✓✓	Increased peer pressure for students when they move to a large Secondary School.
			Families would have to make the tough decision of where to send the children
			Further transportation time for students that originally had OLW as closest school (especially if faith based focused)
			Lowers one-on-one opportunities.
			Board will likely lose students.
Value to the School Board:			
✓✓✓	Few student numbers.		No Catholic education offered in west part of the district.
✓✓✓✓	Cost of running the school, saves money		Lose connection with Catholic lay people in west end of district.
✓✓✓✓	Saved cost of upgrading the school. Would not have to upgrade.		'Residual negativity' perception in communities west of Fort Frances.
✓✓✓	Cost of transportation.		Board perceived as being only interested in money.
✓✓✓	School is operating at a loss		Parents may view the move to a local public school as the only viable option.
✓✓✓	Not able to provide all courses.		Makes Board look bad for not focusing enough attention to the school that resulted in the decision to consider closing the school.
✓✓✓	Reallocate resources.		Creates the potential for greater public dissatisfaction when dealing with the Board on other issues.
✓✓✓	Finalizes the situation allowing the Board to focus on other issues.		Could be bad for the Boards public image.
Value to the Church:			
✓✓✓✓	Priest doesn't have to travel to Stratton for mass.	✓✓✓✓	Lose 'faith based' education for Catholic children.
		✓✓✓✓	Less likely children will attend mass at local churches.
		✓✓✓✓	Lose touch with Catholic children. Limits ability to share the faith amongst children.
			Discourage those who instituted OLW and Catholic education in the area.
		✓✓✓	Children may not be aware of Catholic organizations: CWL and K of C's
		✓✓✓	Cooperation between school and church will be lost.
		✓✓✓	Could negatively affect Church attendance.
		✓✓✓	Takes away opportunities the church had

Decision to Close School			
Strengths		Concerns/Weaknesses	
			with the school (prayer services, etc.).
		✓✓✓	Lose touch with the Catholic community
Value to the Community:			
✓✓✓	Cost of property maintenance may be reduced.	✓✓✓✓✓✓	Lose community facility – building and recreation areas.
		✓✓✓✓✓✓	Lose revenue.
		✓✓✓	Lose only school left in Stratton.
		✓✓✓✓✓✓	Lose community activities – Remembrance Day Services, etc.
		✓✓✓✓✓✓	Lose families – teachers/bus drivers/custodians.
		✓✓✓✓✓✓	Would greatly diminish future prospects for new families.
Value to the Local Economy:			
		✓✓✓✓	Lose revenue – taxes, restaurant, gas station.
		✓✓✓✓✓✓	Lose jobs – teacher, bus drivers, custodians, etc.
		✓✓✓	There will not be a school in the municipality.
		✓✓✓	Degradation of services in Stratton.
		✓✓✓	Reduce potential growth in small businesses.

Our Lady of the Way School Profile

Enrolment

Grade	School Year							
	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06
JK	-	7	3	6	3	11	3	8
SK	2	3	5	3	13	2	5	7
1	2	3	2	13	2	10	6	5
2	2	-	11	2	11	5	6	8
3	-	11	3	11	7	9	8	6
4	5	2	9	6	8	10	7	8
5	1	7	3	8	13	10	8	4
6	-	3	8	13	9	9	7	8
7	1	5	9	10	10	8	10	8
8	-	9	5	9	9	10	8	11
	13	50	58	81	85	84	68	73

Count

Date	17-Feb-13	17-Feb-12	17-Feb-11	17-Feb-10	17-Feb-09	17-Feb-08	17-Feb-07	17-Feb-06
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School Profile – Our Lady of the Way School (OLW) – Stratton

School jurisdiction the jurisdiction covers from Emo (South East), to Rainy River (South West) to Nestor Falls in the North .

School Details Constructed 1987.

5 classrooms

Building square footage - 13,093

Property size - 10.9 acres (474,586 sq')

Heat - Electric with natural gas to heat HVAC make-up air

Drinking water - Drilled well – updated in past 10 years

Sewer - Septic field – original

Staff FTE - Principal/Teacher 1.0, Secretary 0.5, Teachers 2.49, Education Assistants 1.1, Custodian 0.5 – Total 5.59 FTE

Outbuildings - garage/picnic shelter – 2006

Outstanding projects The following projects need to be completed at OLW in order to bring the facility up to standard:

- Window replacement \$35,000
- Flooring replacement \$100,000 (concrete slab requires water proofing as moisture coming through slab has caused flooring to lift throughout most of the school)
- Convert electric heat to gas - \$100,000 (stage 2 of plan to convert all heat to natural gas)
- Painting \$10,000
- Roofing replacement \$50,000
- Drainage/weeping tile \$25,000
- Eavestrough/downspouts \$5,000

Our Lady of the Way School Profile

Year Constructed: 1987

Room	M2	Ft2	Ministry of	Current
			Education Pupil Loading	Pupil Enrolment
102 Library	74.7	807		
103 Special education	35.7	386	12	-
104 Staff washroom	5.2	56		
105 Health	21.0	227		
106 Staff lounge	35.0	378		
107 Classroom	67.1	725	23	-
108 Classroom	67.1	725	23	-
109 Classroom	68.3	738	23	-
113 Kindergarten mudroom	22.3	241		
114 Vestibule	6.0	65		
115 Kindergarten classroom	69.0	745	20	6
116 Classroom	67.1	725	23	7
117 Classroom (computers)	67.1	725	23	
118 Mechanical	65.3	705		
119 Janitor	7.7	83		
120 Secretary	14.0	151		
121 Principal	15.0	162		
122 Boy's washroom	20.5	221		
123 Girl's washroom	22.0	238		
126 Storage	31.6	341		
127 Gymnasium stage	40.5	437		
128 Gymnasium	141.7	1,530		
129 Equipment	15.2	164		
130 Kitchen	15.2	164		
Subtotal (rooms)	994.3	10,739	147	13
Corridors	218.02	2,354	-	-
	1,212.3	13,093	147	13

Northwest Catholic District School Board

Savings from Closing Our Lady of the Way School

Expenditure reduction	Salaries & benefits	\$ 460,730
	Instructional supplies	38,700
	Facility costs	146,100
	Total	<u>645,530</u>
Revenue reduction	Grants for Student Needs from Province	406,779
	Tuition Fees	100,507
		<u>507,286</u>
Savings		<u>\$ 138,244</u>

Further details can be provided upon request

Costs are based on 2012-13

Large grant figure is due to supported school funding provided to schools. Schools with enrolment greater than 50 pupils receive funding for full-time Principal. Schools with less than 50 pupils receive funding for a half-time Principal. All schools regardless of size receive funding for a full-time secretary. Supported school funding also provides enhanced funding for school supplies, school operations (facilities) and school renewal (major maintenance & capital).

POPULATION CHANGES IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO

Northwestern Ontario, is an area comprising over 50% of the land mass of Ontario but with only 2.2% of its population. Northwestern Ontario is divided into three Districts comprised of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay. The Districts of Kenora and Rainy River are represented by The Northwest Catholic District School Board. They are comprised of resource dependent communities and First Nations communities.

The history of continuous settlement by non-Natives is relatively recent when compared to the rest of Ontario. Settlement in earnest started with the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the late 1870s and 1880s. This was soon followed by the construction of the Canadian Northern Railway and the Grand Trunk and National Transcontinental Railways. Most non-Native communities in the region were initially railway towns. Following the building of the railways, the region's growth has been driven primarily by the forest industries and, to a lesser extent, by mining. The development of these communities is undertaken by large resource extraction corporations based outside the region rather than by local entrepreneurs. This fact has meant that the social and economic structure of this region exhibits unique characteristics such as:

- [1] An overdependence on natural resource exploitation - This has meant a high degree of vulnerability to resource depletion, world commodity prices, corporate policy changes, the boom and bust cycles of the resource industries, changes in the Canadian exchange rate, and changes in government policies regarding Northern Ontario.
- [2] A high degree of dependency on external forces - The fact that most communities were developed by outside forces means that local entrepreneurship has been more limited

than other areas. This has served as a barrier to the cultivation of an entrepreneurial culture in these communities. This is also seen in the area of political decision-making. Unlike most areas of Ontario, Northern Ontario is made up of Districts instead of Counties. Unlike Counties, Districts do not have regional governments. Northern Ontario is unique in Ontario in that unlike the Counties of Southern Ontario there is no regional government serving as an intermediary between the provincial governments and municipalities.

While all communities share some of these characteristics, Northwestern Ontario communities have distinctive characteristics that clearly identify their uniqueness:

- [1] Resource Dependent Communities - The vast majority of the remaining non-Native communities in the region are resource dependent communities or single industry towns. These communities are smaller and less diversified economically than the city of Thunder Bay. They are much more directly dependent on resource industries. In Northwestern Ontario most of these communities are also dependent on the city of Thunder Bay for the delivery of services. While these towns share the common characteristics of resource dependent communities, they also differ according to their industrial base. Pulp and paper towns have tended to be more stable than sawmill towns and sawmill towns have tended to be more stable than mining towns.
- [2] First Nations Communities, The region of Northwestern Ontario is unique in Ontario in terms of its large number of First Nations communities. The Aboriginal population makes up between 10 and 15 percent of the population of the region. The population in the area of the region north of the 50th parallel is almost entirely made up of these communities. First Nations communities face the greatest number of social and economic challenges of all the communities in the region.

When discussing and determining future and current program and policy directions for the Board, various demographic aspects must be considered to establish and identify future trends that may impact the Board's future strategic planning, programming and policy development.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS FOR NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO

Socio-Economic Trends Identified in Previous Environmental Scans

Previous Environmental Scans have indicated the following trends in Northwestern Ontario:

- The slowing of growth relative to Ontario as a whole
- The decline of Blue Collar industrial jobs and the rise of the Service Sector
- Increasing presence of women in the paid workforce
- The non-Native population is aging at a faster rate than the province as a whole
- Youth Out-migration.
- Absence of new immigrants.
- Levels of education continue to lag behind provincial averages.
- Recent increase in size of the labour force and number of employed.
- Recent growth is widely-based across industries.
- Most recent growth is outside the City of Thunder Bay.
- Decrease in the participation rate of males in the labour force.
- Increase in level of self-employment.
- Increase in Aboriginal participation in region

Significant Decline in the Population of Northwestern Ontario

The most important statistic coming out of the 2001 Census for Northwestern Ontario is that whereas Canada and Ontario grew in population from 1996 to 2001, Northwestern Ontario suffered a significant decline. This decline came despite forecasts which had projected growth. The Population Estimates prepared by the Ontario Ministry of Finance had forecasted growth rates of 3% for Northwestern Ontario between 1996 and 2001. Actual figures show that the population of Northwestern Ontario declined by 3.8% from 244,117 to 234,771.

CLASSROOM SIZE AND PEDAGOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS

Elementary classroom size set out under the Ministry of Education Primary Class Size directive is 20 students per room in the primary grades and 24.5 students per room in the junior and intermediate grades. If you had a school with five grades in primary and five grades in junior/intermediate, enrolment of approximately 225 students would equate to one class per grade level. From a program delivery perspective, having a single teacher per grade is ideal but there are benefits associated with having multiple teachers per grade. For example teachers have the ability to collaborate on lesson planning, they can institute team teaching practices, provide student support and continuity of lesson delivery during teacher absences and professional development can be delivered more efficiently.

In smaller schools, the assignment of two or more teachers to an individual grade level can be accomplished by organizing the classes into split grades. However, as enrolment drops below 200 students, it becomes much more difficult to maintain two teachers per grade while meeting the required pupil to teacher ratios. In addition to the program delivery implications, there are some practical implications for the day to day operation of the school. Students must be supervised during nutrition breaks and lunch. All staff members in the school participate in supervision but there are limits to the amount of supervision time that can be assigned to an individual staff member. Supervision of the school yard is partially dependent upon the number of students but also dependent upon the site characteristics. As the staff complement decreases with lower enrolment, it may be necessary to restrict students from some portions of the yard in order to minimize supervision requirements.

Extracurricular activities, whether sports teams, art, music or various clubs are an important way to enrich a child's school experience. The variety of activities that can be supported at a school is very much dependent upon the skill sets of the staff members and their ability to devote the necessary hours to these activities. As the complement of teacher's decreases with enrolment, so does the potential pool of talent to draw upon. Intuitively, larger schools would have a wider variety of expertise and therefore have the capability to offer a broader range of extracurricular activities to their students than smaller schools.

OUR LADY OF THE WAY COMMITTEE MEETING:

Public Consultation Meetings	Deadline for Application to make a Presentation
Wednesday, February 20, 2013	
Wednesday, March 20, 2013 - 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Wednesday, March 13, 2013
Tuesday, April 23, 2013 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Tuesday, April 16, 2013
Wednesday, May 29, 2013 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.	Wednesday, May 22, 2013
Wednesday, June 26, 2013 - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. (Revised)	Wednesday, June 19, 2013 (Revised)
Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.	Wednesday, August 28, 2013
Monday, Sept. 30, 2013 – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.	

NOTE:

Individuals or groups who wished to address the Our Lady of the Way Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) had to submit their intent by the deadline indicated above by email to: arc@tncdsb.on.ca and review the “**Invitation to Delegations**” listed on the Board’s website for guidelines to make a presentation.

ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

OUR LADY OF THE WAY SCHOOL:

Invitation to Delegations

Individuals or groups wishing to address the Our Lady of the Way Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) at its **May 29, 2013 public consultation meeting** may submit their intent no later than **Wednesday, May 22, 2013** by email to: arc@tncdsb.on.ca.

1. Individuals or groups wishing to appear before the ARC on **May 29, 2013** will be permitted to do so provided a request is received by the ARC by **Wednesday, May 22, 2013**.
2. Delegations must specify the nature of the topic to be addressed and name their spokesperson. Written material not exceeding 5 pages, detailing the content of the presentation, must be submitted with your application. This material will be provided to the ARC in their meeting agenda package.
3. Presentations may not criticize or insult School Board staff, Trustees, parents or any other individual for actions that have taken place in the past. If the ARC Chair determines that any presentation is not in good taste the Chair may rule the presenter out of order and end the presentation.
4. Delegations are limited to 10 minutes for presentations.

5. The ARC members may ask questions of clarification following the presentation.

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC) PROCESS

The Our Lady of the Way School Closure Review was initiated by the Board of Trustees on January 15, 2013. An Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was assembled in accordance with Board Administrative Procedure, D-10, Pupil Accommodation Review. [Board Administrative Procedure, D-10, Pupil Accommodation Review](#)

The following tasks were completed by the ARC in accordance with ABPD-10.

Accommodation Review Committee

Director of Education	M.C. Kelly
Superintendent of Business	Chris Howarth
School Principal	Darlene Fejos Rousseau
Diocesan Representative	Father Alan Albao
First Nation and Rainy River First Nation Representative	Tara Hunter
Community Representatives	Mark Hyatt, Anthony Leek, Mary O'Connor,
Parent Representatives	Sandy Nielson, Jack Vandenbrand
Teacher Representatives	Nicole Wood,

AGENDA AND MINUTES OF ARC MEETINGS

Meeting	Agenda	Minutes
Organizational Meeting	Feb.20,2013 - Prayer	Feb. 20, 2013
Public Meetings March 20, 2013	March20,2013 - Prayer	March 20, 2013
April 23, 2013	April23,2013 - Prayer Public Presentations - Presentation #1 - Presentation #2 - Presentation #3 - Presentation #4	April 23, 2013
May 29, 2013	May29,2013 - Prayer Public Presentations - Presentation #1 - Presentation #2 - Presentation #3 - Presentation #4 - Presentation #5 - Presentation #6 - Presentation #7 - Bd Response to #1	May 29, 2013
June 26, 2013	June 26,2013 - Prayer Public Presentations - Nicole Wood (no documentation received) - Presentation #2 - Presentation #3 - Presentation #4 - Presentation #5 - Presentation #6	June 26, 2013
September 4, 2013	September4,2013 - Prayer -Presentation: Bishop Colli	



The Northwest Catholic District School Board

555 Flinders Avenue Fort Frances, ON P9A 3L2

Accommodation Review Committee

Our Lady of the Way School

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 20, 2013

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Place: Our Lady of the Way School

1. Call to Order

The Accommodation Review Committee meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m..

2. Welcome and Introductions

Chris Howarth, Superintendent of Business, welcomed everyone to the orientation meeting of the Accommodation Review Committee. Committee members were thanked for agreeing to participate in the Accommodation Review Process and were asked to introduce themselves. As per Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines, the following individuals were present and will serve on the committee:

Board and School Resource

- Chris Howarth, Superintendent of Business
- Darlene Fejos-Rousseau, Principal
- Nicole Wood, Teacher

Community Representatives

- Mark Hyatt
- Anthony Leek
- Mary O'Connor
- Sandy Nielson
- Jack Vandenbrand

First Nation Representative

- Tara Hunter, Rainy River First Nations

Regrets: Mary-Catherine Kelly, Director of Education

3. Prayer

C. Howarth led the committee in Prayer.

4. Election of Chair

C. Howarth reviewed the Chair requirements. The Chair will officiate the meetings. Participants will

speak through the Chair. The Chair will rule over unacceptable behavior. The Chair's vote will break a tie. Committee members agreed to move this item to later in the meeting.

5. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as revised with item 4. Election of Chair moved to the end of the agenda.

6. Overview of Accommodation Review Process

C. Howarth reviewed the Accommodation Review Guidelines.

- Role of the Accommodation Review Committee
- Background on Accommodation Reviews
- Ministry of Education Guidelines
- Pupil Accommodation Policy and Procedure
- Review ARC Terms of Reference
 - The Board does have D-10, Pupil Accommodation Review Procedure and it is posted on the Board website.
 - The committee members received an information package. The primary role of the committee is to gather information and make recommendations to the Board. There are a number of options for consideration about the future of Our Lady of the Way School.
 - The Board held a committee member search. The Board did receive interest from one parent but due to work commitments, the parent would be unable to participate in the meetings. Trustees have approved the committee as presented.
 - All public meetings will be well advertised. The committee will hold four public meetings to be concluded by the end of June 2013. At the conclusion of the four public meetings the ARC will meet and make a recommendation(s) on the future of OLW to the Board.
 - The committee discussed the Invitation to Delegations guidelines. It was agreed that individuals and groups wishing to appear before the ARC will be required to provide a written request specifying the nature of the topic to be addressed prior to the meeting. Presentations must be fair and civil and will be limited to 10 minutes. ARC members may ask questions of clarification following the presentation. Detailed Invitation to Delegations instructions will be posted on the Board's website.
 - Committee members will be allowed to join via teleconference if they are unable to physically attend the meeting at Our Lady of the Way School. Mileage will be reimburse at the committee members' request.

7. Review of School Information Profile

C. Howarth reviewed the School Information Profile as it pertains to "Value to the Student" and "Value to the School Board". The school jurisdiction covers from Emo (South East) to Rainy River (South West) to Nestor Falls in the North. The school was constructed in 1987. The size of the school is 13,093 square

feet, has 5 classrooms and is located on 10.9 acres. The school has several out buildings including a garage, picnic shelter and storage sheds. The school requires the following repairs in order to bring the facility up to standard. Following is a list of required repairs:

- Window replacement - \$ 35,000
- Flooring replacement - \$100,00 (concrete slab requires water proofing as moisture coming through slab has caused flooring to lift throughout most of the school)
- Painting - \$ 10,000
- Roofing replacement - \$ 50,000
- Drainage/weeping tile - \$ 25,000
- Eavestrough/downspouts - \$ 5,000

TOTAL - \$225,000.00

C. Howarth reviewed the last eight years school enrolment. Enrolment has declined from 86 to 13 pupils during this period.

C. Howarth reviewed the projected costs for the 2013/2014 school year. He reviewed the expenses of operating the school. The revenue is based on student enrolment. The province does subsidize small and northern schools to cover expenditures such as principal and staff salaries and resources. Supported school funding has been carrying the school to date but that can be lost due to low enrolment. Administration will produce a revenue and expenses report for the next meeting.

Election of Chair:

Anthony Leek was acclaimed as the Accommodation Review Committee Chair.

8. Schedule of Public Consultation Meetings:

Committee members discussed guidelines and possible dates and times for the four public meetings. Each meeting will commence at varying times in an effort to accommodate a variety of schedules throughout the west end. Meetings will be held at Our Lady of the Way. If physical attendance is unavoidable, members can attend via teleconference but physical attendance is preferred. It was noted that the committee has a tremendous responsibility to the communities that Our Lady of the Way School serves. There is 100 years of Catholic history at stake in the west end of the district. Committee members agreed on the following dates and times for the four public meetings to be held at Our Lady of the Way School:

Schedule of Public Consultation Meetings cont.

- March 20, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.
- April 23, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
- May 29, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

o June 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Moved by: Jack Vandenbrand

Seconded by: Tara Hunter

THAT the ARC accept the four public meeting dates and times as discussed.

CARRIED.

Chair, A. Leek, opened the floor for any further items.

First Nation Representative, T. Hunter, noted that the community of Manitou has appointed her as their delegate on this committee. She will be their voice.

Chair, A. Leek, noted that the public meetings will be highly published to ensure community involvement.

9. Adjournment

Moved by: Mark Hyatt

Seconded by: Tara Hunter

THAT the ARC adjourn at 7:00 p.m..

CARRIED.



The Northwest Catholic District School Board

555 Flinders Avenue Fort Frances, ON P9A 3L2

Accommodation Review Committee

Our Lady of the Way School

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Place: Our Lady of the Way School

10. Call to Order

The Accommodation Review Committee meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m..

11. Prayer

Chair, Anthony Leek, lead the committee in prayer.

Board and School Resource

Community Representatives

- Chris Howarth, Superintendent of Business
- Mary-Catherine Kelly, Director of Education
- Darlene Fejos-Rousseau, Principal
- Nicole Wood, Teacher
- Mark Hyatt
- Anthony Leek
- Mary O’Connor
- Sandy Nielson
- Jack Vandenbrand

First Nation Representative

Absent: Tara Hunter, Rainy River First Nations

Community Attendance

Ken Johnson, Press

Laura Haner

Eileen Armstrong

Lisa Latimer

Mary Curtis

Dan Maltais

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald, Trustee

David Sharp

Gary Gamsby

12. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Mark Hyatt

Seconded by: Mary O’Connor

The Agenda was approved as presented.

CARRIED.

13. Approval of Minutes – February 20, 2013

Correction to number 6, third bullet, to read “The Board held a committee member search. The Board did receive interest from one parent but due to work commitments, the parent would be unable to participate in the meetings. Trustees have approved the committee as presented.”

Moved by: Mark Hyatt

Seconded by: Jack Vandenbrand

That the Minutes of the ARC for The Northwest Catholic District School Board dated February 20, 2013, be approved as amended.

CARRIED.

14. Role of the Accommodation Review Committee

C. Howarth reviewed the Accommodation Review Guidelines.

- Role of the Accommodation Review Committee

- Background on Accommodation Reviews
- Ministry of Education Guidelines
- Pupil Accommodation Policy and Procedure
- Review ARC Terms of Reference

This information is posted on the Board's website. Parents/community members can contact the Board Office for printed copies.

15. Presentation of Financial Information

C. Howarth reviewed the potential savings for the Board if Our Lady of the Way School was to close. There are other options to consider with regards to the school i.e. community partnerships. However, the only way to present the true financial impact of continuing to operate the school is to provide the cost savings if the school were to close. The grants relating to Our Lady of the Way are very large due to supported school funding, which reflects the Province's goal of keeping small rural schools open. In the case of Our Lady of the Way, enrolment decline is so large even supported school funding is not sufficient to keep the school financially viable. The Board receives supported school funding and Tuition Fees for Lady of the Way School. The school is operating at a projected loss of \$138,244 in the 2013/2014 school year, based on current staffing levels.

Mary Curtis: Is concerned about this information already released to the public. It plants the seed that the school will close. This information was shared with parents/community members during June 2012 meetings held to address declining enrolment.

Chair, A. Leek: The financial information is being presented as part of the requirements of the ARC process. It is not the only consideration in deciding the future of the school. We need the community to come out and present the benefits to the students in keeping the school open.

C. Howarth noted that the financial impact or value to the Board was only one factor the ARC had to consider. Other factors are value to the students, the community and the local economy. Regarding the value of the school to the students, academic data will be presented at the next meeting.

David Sharp would like the information that was presented by parents/community members at the two meetings in June 2012 to be shared with the committee as it pertains to the purposes of keeping the school open.

16. Delegations/Presentations: There were no applications to present received for this meeting.

Chair, A. Leek noted that no applications to present were received for this meeting. With committee approval, the floor was open for comments from the public.

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald noted that Trustees sincerely want to hear from the community for support of Our Lady of the Way School. They understand the importance of the school and the long history of Catholic education in the west end of the district. But as a fiscally responsible Board, the decision had to be made to start the accommodation review process.

Chair, A. Leek noted that people who feel uncomfortable presenting to the committee can submit written presentations for the committee to consider.

David Sharp noted that the public Board is doing accommodation reviews on two of its rural schools. If the public Board decides to close Sturgeon Creek School could a partnership with the public Board be a consideration to keep the students in the west end of the district attending a school in Stratton. Our Lady of the Way School is the only school in the west end of the whole district to offer a Catholic education.

C. Howarth noted that the email address for submission of presentations and questions is arc@tncdsb.on.ca. If anyone wishing to make a presentation, but is not comfortable or is unable to use email, they should contact C. Wilson or C. Howarth. Presentation must be fair and civil without dwelling on the past. The committee is looking for the community members to offer ideas and opportunities to move us forward into the future.

C. Howarth reviewed the Terms of Reference with the audience. The ARC will hold a minimum of four meetings, which should conclude by the end of June. He reviewed the following:

1. The ARC membership includes the following:
 - 1 community representative;
 - 1 representative from the school council;
 - 2 parents or of students or former students of OLW;
 - Rainy River First Nation representative;
 - A Diocese appointed representative;
 - Superintendent of Business (non-voting);
 - Director of Education (non-voting)
 - 1 staff member of OLW (non-voting);
 - OLW school Principal (non-voting);

The ARC will make every effort to come to consensus on recommendations. When consensus cannot be reached the voting process will be utilized. The Chair will vote only in order to break a tie vote. Board personnel will be non-voting.

2. The ARC assumes an advisory role including its recommendation to the Board.
3. Administrative staff will complete a school profile report for the school and provide it to the ARC for review. The ARC has the right to modify the Profile where it feels it is appropriate.
4. The ARC will ensure that a wide breadth of school and community groups is provided with the opportunity to participate in the review.
5. The ARC's initial meeting will provide the committee with its mandate and information relevant to the operation of the committee. At the initial meeting the ARC will appoint a Chair to preside over ARC meetings.
6. Following the initial meeting, the ARC will hold a minimum of 4 public meetings occurring over

no less than 90 days.

7. Those individuals and groups wishing to make a presentation to the ARC will be required to submit notice including the topic of their presentation, prior to each of the 4 public meetings. The ARC Chair will decide who may make presentations to the ARC.
8. A secretary will record attendance and keep minutes of the ARC meetings that reflect the full range of opinions expressed. All relevant information relating to the ARC including meeting minutes, will be made available on the Board's website <http://www.tncdsb.on.ca> or will be provided on request.
9. At the conclusion of the public meetings, the ARC will complete an Accommodation Report that will make recommendation(s) regarding the future of OLW School. The report will be delivered to the Board's Director of Education. The ARC will present its report to the Board of Trustees when requested to do so.

C. Howarth reviewed the documents posted on the Board's website including the Invitation to Delegations.

17. Next Meeting: April 23, 2013, 6:00 p.m.

18. Adjournment

Moved by: Jack Vandenberg

Seconded by: Mary O'Connor

THAT the ARC adjourn at 6:30 p.m..

CARRIED.

Chair, A. Leek, thanked everyone from coming out.

Director Kelly thanked the committee members for their commitment to the ARC. This is a wonderful school and worth the effort to keep it open.



The Northwest Catholic District School Board

555 Flinders Avenue Fort Frances, ON P9A 3L2

Accommodation Review Committee

Our Lady of the Way School

Minutes

Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Place: Our Lady of the Way School

19. Call to Order

The Accommodation Review Committee meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m..

20. Prayer

Father Albao lead the committee in prayer.

Board and School Resource

- Chris Howarth, Superintendent of Business
- Mary-Catherine Kelly, Director of Education
- Darlene Fejos-Rousseau, Principal
- Nicole Wood, Teacher

Community Representatives

- Father Alan Albao
- Tara Hunter
- Mark Hyatt
- Anthony Leek
- Mary O'Connor
- Sandy Nielson
- Jack Vandenbrand

Community Attendance

There were over 50 community members in attendance at the Accommodation Review Meeting.

21. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Mark Hyatt

Seconded by: Darlene Fejos-Rousseau

The Agenda was approved as presented.

CARRIED.

22. Approval of Minutes – March 23, 2013

Moved by: Mark Hyatt

Seconded by: Sandy Nielson

That the Minutes of the ARC for The Northwest Catholic District School Board dated March 20, 2013, be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

23. Presentation by ARC Committee Member – Mark Hyatt

May our Lady guard my heart and guide my words here tonight. Thanks to the committee for this opportunity to speak. M. Hyatt began his presentation with addressing the rules for presenters as documented on the Board's website. He quoted the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Section 2(b) and named the notable limits on free expression. First, from a secular standpoint, he addressed criticism of the School Board as an elected entity and then he addressed criticism of trustees or employees of the Board. Since ours is a Catholic school system, he then addressed the issue of criticism in a Christian context. In this regard the most often quoted passage is Mathew 7 verses 1-5. To sum up,

Joseph Hollcroft says, "We have a duty as Christians to give and accept criticism if that will further God's kingdom on earth. But criticism given must have as its goal not condemnation but reconciliation and correction." Further to the rules for presenters, it is surely clear that insults are unacceptable. But criticism, if it is true and its intent is to better our Catholic community then it must also be clear from what I have said that it is both a civil right and a Christian duty to give and receive criticism.

24. Commentary from Director of Education, Mary-Catherine Kelly

a. A diocesan representative is required on the Accommodation Review Committee. The committee received a letter from Bishop Colli appointing Father Alan Albao as the representative for the Diocesan. A motion is required to accept the Diocesan appointment for recommendation to the Board.

THAT the ARC recommend Father Alan Albao as Diocesan Representative on the ARC to the Board for approval.

Moved by: Jack Vandenbrand

Seconded by: Mark Hyatt

b. Director Kelly noted that the water quality at the school is fine. Chris Howarth informed the committee that policy states that the school custodian must flush water taps every morning prior to students/staff arriving at the school. The custodian commences his duties at Our Lady of the Way at 2:00 p.m. so he is unable to flush the taps as per Board Policy. The cold water has been shut off to discourage staff and students from drinking the tap water and bottled water is offered in its place. The water is tested regularly at the school and water test results are good.

c. Director Kelly reported that the purpose of the ARC is to ensure that The Terms of Reference are adhered to and that it is important for the ARC to ensure that the meetings/ presentations/comments at the ARC meetings are used to encourage the Board to review all aspects and opportunities to ensure that the Our Lady of the Way School community gets to offer ideas to help move the school and the Board forward. She shared with the committee and community members present a brief summary of the steps that took place and processes that were addressed last spring to alleviate parents' concerns and expressed that there were many hours invested in working to make the school a wonderful place for students. The Superintendent of Education used the spring meetings to meet with the Principal to plan out guidelines to support the school community. She noted that the school is having a wonderful year, the school is well staffed, students are well served and the staff is dedicated to running a very positive and faith filled learning environment. Efforts to hear the needs of the community were undertaken and we have done work to help to build the school community. Voices were heard and actions were taken to make the Catholic school a great option for the west end families of the district. Staffing begins in the next month for all schools. We base allocations of staff based on student populations. It is our hope that people will choose Catholic education and keep Our Lady of the Way School moving forward into the future. The Director also announced the Principal appointments for the next school year; Mrs. Fejos Rousseau appointment to St. Michael's School, Mr. Fryer appointed to St. Patrick's School and Mr. Hyatt appointed to Our Lady of the Way School.

Commentary from Principal, Darlene Fejos-Rousseau

Darlene thanked all the community members for coming out and supporting the school. In the spring of 2012 parents brought concerns to the Principal re: school action. These were shared with the Director of Education. The Superintendent of Education, Al Cesiunas, was involved and he, along with assistance from the Director, established areas to address in a strategic plan for the school. Through the

involvement of parents and staff, a strategic plan was developed and this was shared with parents. It was a means to allow parents to understand how the process works and how the plan would:

1. increase Catholic involvement in the school,
2. increase staff involvement,
3. increase parent communication and involvement,
4. increase and implement school activities and events.

Parents were in agreement with these plans.

Chair Anthony Leek asked if there were any questions from the committee.

25. Presentation by Administration on the value of the school to the student.

Superintendent of Education, Margot Saari, informed the committee that it was her role to bring the facts of the school climate to the committee for their information. She reviewed the School Information Profile with the committee and attendees. Chair Anthony Leek asked if there were any questions from the committee. Mark Hyatt asked if there was in-service provided to the teachers at Our Lady of the Way School to assist them in handling multi-grade classes? M. Saari noted that the Board has resources in place to assist all teachers, which include: Curriculum, Special Education and Catholicity Coordinators, a Math Facilitator, on-going professional development (in house and away from the school) and advanced technology that assists in the expanded availability of these and other resources. Mark Hyatt also asked about the amount of grade levels there are in, for instance, a grade one class. There are a variety of different grade levels in a grade one class. This would be similar to a variety of low enrolment grades in a single class room.

26. Public presentations

- Sarah Olson & Stephanie Hyatt

Sarah Olson & Stephanie Hyatt are two of the seven newest teachers hired by the Board. Stephanie Hyatt presented the teachers concerns with regards to the possible closing of Our Lady of the Way School and the negative impact that would have on the redundancy of teaching positions.

- Mary Curtis

Mary Curtis presented her heartfelt concerns about the potential loss of Our Lady of the Way School. The west end of the district has witnessed over 110 years of Catholic Education. As Catholics, we are free to read the bible, celebrate Easter and Christmas and share the good news. She is very concerned that we could lose this freedom and the "School with all the Names". She shared her experience while attending the two spring 2012 parent meetings. She feels that the Board did not listen to the concerns of the parents and so the parents walked. Students left from all grades and the Public system has welcomed them. Because of the low enrolment, this is the first year the school has lost money. She posed the question, "How do we promote this school?" This school has been a school that families turn to when children couldn't make it in other schools. And this school welcomed all with open arms. Mary has reviewed the Role and Responsibilities of a Trustee and recommends a study of this handbook. She feels that the appointment of Principal Hyatt to Our Lady of the Way School is a productive start but he has a formidable task ahead of him and she hopes it is not too late. She then played the school song

“Our Lady of the Way” for all to enjoy.

- Sheldon Olson

Sheldon Olson grew up in Stratton, owns a house in Stratton, has family and friends that still reside in Stratton and he has ties to the community. He noted that with the other ongoing public accommodation reviews taking place in the district resulting in the possible closing of a school, and with the Sturgeon Creek Annex being relocated to Emo, there is potential for new students to enroll at Our Lady of the Way School. He is aware of new families moving back to the community of Stratton but because of a lot of residual negativity in the community with regards to issues that have arisen at Our Lady of the Way over the past few years, they are reluctant to enroll at the school. He announced, now is the time to start afresh, shuffle up staffing, and start promoting Our Lady of the Way as a viable option for parents that are not willing to bus their children a long distance to school. It is also the time to start promoting the school as an option to members of the community that are not Catholic. Although the school is open to non-Catholics, there has always been confusion regarding this fact in the community. It is also the time to begin creating partnerships within the community. For instance, partnering with the Stratton Best Start Hub would encourage student enrollment. He asks the committee and the Board to look closely at the issues that were identified last spring during the review and make the necessary changes required to once again make Our Lady of the Way School a strong, viable part of the community.

- Township of Morley – Gary Gamsby/George Heyens

George Heyens spoke on behalf of The Corporation of the Township of Morley with regards to the Value to the Community and the Value to the Local economy. The school adds value to the community in the following ways: residents of the township have the opportunity to attend the school’s Remembrance Day Service; when the school holds teas, receptions or other similar activities, they are often open to the public; when the school presents concerts (musical, Christmas, etc. township residents are invited and encouraged to attend; the school has been available for community groups to use for their events i.e. Tae Kwon Do, teas, agricultural meetings and candidate debates. The school adds value to the local economy by attracting and retaining families in the community. When families are looking for a place to live, one of the two most important services that people look for is the availability and quality of educational opportunities. The school also contributes to economic spin-offs, real estate values, is a significant employer and supports the local post office, which all residents benefit.

Chair Anthony Leek asked if there were any questions from the committee with regards to the presentations. He reminisced about the song. He attended school here for four years and hearing the song made him realize the importance of the school. He noted that he is really glad that he was invited to sit on this committee and he hopes that the next two meetings are as well attended as this one tonight.

27. Next Meeting: May 29, 2013, 6:30 p.m.

28. Adjournment

Moved by: Tara Hunter

Seconded by: Mark Hyatt

THAT the ARC adjourn at 7:30 p.m..

CARRIED.



The Northwest Catholic District School Board

555 Flinders Avenue Fort Frances, ON P9A 3L2

Accommodation Review Committee

Our Lady of the Way School

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Place: Our Lady of the Way School

29. Call to Order

The Accommodation Review Committee meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m..

30. Prayer

Father Albao led the committee in prayer.

Board and School Resource

- Chris Howarth, Superintendent of Business
- Mary-Catherine Kelly, Director of Education
- Darlene Fejos-Rousseau, Principal
- Nicole Wood, Teacher

Community Representatives

- Father Alan Albao
- Mark Hyatt
- Anthony Leek
- Mary O'Connor
- Sandy Nielson
- Jack Vandenbrand

Regrets: Tara Hunter

Community Attendance

There were over 50 community members in attendance at the Accommodation Review Meeting.

31. Approval of Agenda

The Chair requested that the agenda be amended to add:

- 5.6 A letter submitted by Our Lady of Good Council CWL
- 5.7 A letter submitted by former OLW student Stephanie Arcangelo

Moved by: Mark Hyatt

Seconded by: Sandy Nielson

The Agenda was approved as amended.

CARRIED.

32. Approval of Minutes – April 23, 2013

Moved by: Jack Vandenbrand

Seconded by: Mark Hyatt

That the Minutes of the ARC for The Northwest Catholic District School Board dated April 23, 2013, be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

33. Public presentations

- Dennis Olinyk, Knights of Columbus

Mr. Olinyk thanked the committee for the opportunity to present the K of C's presentation regarding the very important issue of the future of Our Lady of the Way School. Our Lady of the Way school was blessed with a history in the west end of the district of Rainy River that goes back many years before the school was built here in Stratton only 25 years ago. With respect to things that are not so clear and straight forward, we are here tonight in solidarity seeking, through mutual dialogue, clarification and answers. We think it is good to talk about the things we have come to know and believe because when we reflect on them they may be helpful in finding a solution to the potential closing of Our Lady of the Way Catholic School. Mr. Olinyk quoted Blessed John Paul II from his, "Dialogue between Cultures for a Civilization of Love and Peace," in the 2001 World Day of Peace. We are reminded that each of us has a challenging responsibility for the future of the Catholic Church, which includes Catholic education; the missionary responsibility of the faithful. He quoted Mr. Carl Anderson, the Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, from his book "A Civilization of Love" that supported the idea that we need to form a solid moral core in children and youth. We must provide an educational environment in which the spiritual, moral, and intellectual capacities of every person can be realized. Psychologist Robert Coles reminds us, the moral life and the moral intelligence of children still can and should be developed in the classroom, and Catholic schools are uniquely qualified to provide this kind of moral leadership precisely because Catholic schools have a unique tradition of respecting the dignity of every student." At the 129th Supreme Convention on August 4, 2011, the Knights of Columbus passed a resolution on support for Catholic education. It starts off by saying, "Whereas, the Catholic Church teaches that all true education is directed toward the formation of the human person in view of his final end and the good of that society to which he belongs." The resolution goes on to say, "Pope Benedict XV1 defined 'intellectual charity' as that aspect of charity which calls upon the educator, "to recognize that the profound responsibility to lead the young to truth is nothing less than an act of love, and "the Catholic Church affirms that parents are the primary educators of their children, and that they have the duty and

right to provide a religious education to their children, a right which should be respected and promoted by the state.” The Knights of Columbus, Fr. Florentine Council 9556, is here tonight in solidarity with the Catholic community and all our friends in support of Catholic education, especially given the present crisis surrounding what appears to be the imminent closure of Our lady of the Way School. We have used the term solidarity because we think it is right to do so. We think of solidarity in terms of relationships between individuals, organizations, communities and nations and isn’t that what Catholic education is all about!

Solidarity is about working toward achieving the common good in the spirit of truth and justice. Truth and justice is needed because without it, things fail. We believe there is a need for each of us to take some time to prayerfully ask the Lord for spiritual guidance in the hope of keeping Our Lady of the Way Catholic School alive and well. There is a need for everyone to know what the truth is and what better way is there than to turn to the Lord for help. We need to honestly ask ourselves the question, why is Our Lady of the Way School in the situation it is in today?

What is the root of the problem?

Why is there a very real threat against the future of Our Lady of the Way School?

Why did the student enrolment decline over the recent year(s) as is it did?

The present school year 2012-2013 is recorded to have 13 students, a significant decline from the previous years: 2011-12 (50); 2010-11 (58); 2009-10 (81); 2008-09 (85); 2007-09 (84); 2006-07 (68) and 2005-06 (73)

What were the concerns expressed by the parents of students, and others, last year when open meetings were convened at Our Lady of the Way School?

What is the result of the investigation that was to have taken place?

What has been done to rectify the situation?

What do the school trustees have to say about the current crises?

Are there outside influences to the crises that is not public knowledge?

What is the position of the local diocese regarding this problem?

What is this current process all about?

Where do we go from here?

We are sure there are more questions, but hopefully this will get us started!!!

It is necessary to examine the past in order to move forward. Mr. Olinyk closed his presentation with prayer.

- Father Albao asked for clarification with regards to the approval of his position on the ARC. Director Kelly confirmed that the Board of Trustees unanimously supported Father Albao to be the Diocesan representative on the ARC.
- David Sharp

David Sharp thanks the committee for the opportunity to present his views on the issue of the potential closing of Our Lady of the Way School. David has spent all of his life in Stratton. His family was instrumental for establishing Catholic education in Stratton. He reflected on his years as a student at Morley #1 RCSS. He challenges the Board to renew the school spirit. He feels that the History book on Catholic Education in Northwestern Ontario that has been published by the Board and distributed to all Catholic stakeholders doesn't depict the true meaning of Catholic Education. David reflected on his years as an educator at Pinewood/Stratton RCSS and Our Lady of the Way School. Parents had a vested interest in the school and all discipline had, at its core, Christian values. Students graduate from Our Lady of the Way School with an excellent elementary education and many went on to be successful and valued community members. Our Lady of the Way School has always excelled at ensuring ALL students had an excellent education. We can be that great school again. David questioned Board operations as they pertain to the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. He noted that the Board has made a good start in revitalizing the school by appointing Mr. Brendan Hyatt as principal for the 2013/2014 school year and expressed that he feels the Principal should be stationed 100% at the school with the school as his only responsibility and he feels there is at least two teachers required to teach the students. He offered cost cutting measures that might contribute to the availability of funds that could be used to keep the school open. He noted that the public board operates two small schools in their district that have never been threatened by an accommodation review. We all know that if the school closes it will never open again. The Board should save/cut monies in order to keep this school open. Our fore fathers struggled to establish Catholic schools in the west end of the district.

- Lisa Latimer

Good evening, members of the Accommodation Review Committee, ladies and gentlemen. Our Lady of the Way school has just celebrated 25 years of Catholic Education in the Rainy River, Pinewood, Stratton and Barwick area. This school is essential to area residents and students for a number of reasons. Our Lady of the Way School provides a Catholic Education for the Catholic community as well as other faith denominations in the Rainy River Valley and surrounding communities. The school is a great facility and has a dedicated staff. It is a community centre and focal point for the local residents. The school is an important part of the local economy. If the school closes there will be no school in the west end of the district to offer a Catholic Education and Fort Frances is far too far away to travel to school. The school is only 25 years old and has and numerous upgrades to the various operating systems and classrooms. There are computers and a SmartBoard in every classroom. There is a computer lab and an excellent gym with a stage. There is a large green space that provides opportunities for environmental education and outdoor activities. The enthusiastic staff work very hard to provide the best possible educational outcomes of the students. There are numerous activities throughout the school year such as Masses, Pow Wows, Fun Fitness Fridays, buddy reading, Best Start Hub visits, Remembrance Day ceremonies, breakfast for all students every morning, Voyageur Day, Dr. Suess Day, Hundreds Day, trips to the Mounds, the Fort Frances Library, the pool, the bowling alley, student leadership meetings and trips, and school play productions. There is a lower ratio of students to adults than other larger schools, which provides more individual attention and instruction and allows for a deeper understanding of materials learned and low incidences of behaviour problems. Students have learned good problem-solving, peer mediation and leadership skills as well as caring and compassion for others. There is a strong bond between all students and staff creating a family-like atmosphere. We have a high level of parent engagement at Our Lady of the Way. There are many community groups that use the school and its athletic facilities. If the school is not available to the community, many groups may no longer be able to carry on their function. Closing the school will have a negative economic impact on local real estate as

well as businesses that service the school community and provide services for the school. The school employs a number of local residents, from EA's, bus drivers, teachers and other support staff. There may have been some negative perceptions in the community regarding our school but I can tell you that, as educators, we are proud to work here. We provide our students with the learning skills and work habits necessary to succeed in school and life. We teach the Catholic values that will aid our students in becoming responsible, caring adults. We welcome any families who may be interested in having their children attend our school, to come in, walk our halls, visit our classrooms and see for themselves the wonderful things that take place here on a daily basis. If Our Lady of the Way School closes, it will be lost forever, which will be a tragic loss for the community. We have been told it would cost the Board \$139,000. to keep the school open for the next school year. The Board has a mandate to provide a Catholic Education to the Catholic families under its jurisdiction. I ask the ARC to hold the Board accountable to our students and parents and keep Our Lady of the Way open for our Catholic and non-Catholic communities alike, present and future. Lisa closed her presentation with a short PowerPoint accompanied by the students singing the Catholic Education Week song, "Growing in Faith".

- Diane Vandenbrand, President, Our Lady of the Way Catholic Women's League

Anthony Leek, Chair of the ARC, read a letter submitted by the Our Lady of the Way Catholic Women's League. The letter explained how important the school is to the ladies of the CWL and how the school is such an integral part of their lives. The letter went on to state that the ladies feel it is very important to keep Catholic Education available in the west end of the district and Catholic parents should be able to have a choice of where their children will be educated. If these small schools start closing, it will not be a healthy situation for the children. The main concern of any school is supposed to be for the well-being of the children but, if they have to ride a bus for a long period of time, that is not for their well-being. In the past, this was a school to be reckoned with – it was a Great Little School and it can be again.

- Kevin Nielson, Former Student and Taxpayer

Kevin Neilson is presenting as a former student of Our Lady of the Way School and taxpayer currently supporting the school board. Kevin explained how he was saddened to hear of the problems at the school and what had transpired over the past few years. A strong school is necessary for a healthy community. The vast majority of the students that have left the school have not left the area. They have enrolled in others schools in the area. Kevin reflected on the excellent Catholic education he received as he attended Our Lady of the Way for his entire elementary education. He has learned many lessons that have served him well in his life. Accountability is the most important one. He feels the Board has failed in accountability and has shown a lack of action. He feels the Board has a moral obligation to rectify the current situation at this school and support the revitalization of the school. I encourage all community members to hold their feet to the fire until the Board takes action to rectify this situation.

- Letter submitted by Our Lady of Good Council CWL

Anthony Leek, Chair of the ARC, read a letter of support submitted by the Our Lady of Good Council Catholic Women's League. The CWL has seen the direct result of a good Catholic education in the Christian attitudes and dedication to scholastic ideas of the fine young men and women who have graduated from Our Lady of the Way School in the past. We encourage parents, children, Trustees and Board of Education members to work together in faith to help keep this amazing school open and our Catholic faith alive in this area. The letter wished Mr. Hyatt success as he begins his new term and it's our hope enrolment figures will rise in the near future. The letter was signed by Rachel Marquis and the

ladies of Our Lady of Good Counsel C.W.L. Rainy River.

- Letter submitted by Stephanie Arcangelo, proud former student and substitute teacher of Our Lady of the Way School

Mark Hyatt, ARC member, read a letter of support submitted by from student Stephanie Arcangelo. The letter opened with the words from the school song. This song evokes many feelings for me, but mostly pride in being able to call myself a former student of Our Lady of the Way School. Some of the reasons I am proud are:

This school has always embraced students of all backgrounds, Catholic or not, from all over the west end of the Rainy River District. I loved how inclusive this school has always been. The school has established the unique tradition of Voyageur Day held each spring. The school has had a wonderful sports program. Everyone was invited to join sports teams. The school has had a great student council. The school has always strived to give it students great opportunities. Personally, I have gone to Pow Wows, several ski trips, went to Winnipeg for class trips, participated in Science Fairs and French Speech contests, saw Maori Dancers, learned to decorate Ukrainian Easter eggs, taken piano lessons, travelled for sports, to name a few. The school has always taught that Christ be at the centre of all that we think, do and say. I received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation while attending Our Lady of the Way. The Catholic education that I received at Our Lady of the Way has helped mold me into the person I am today.

I am saddened that my former school may be closing. I realize that enrollment is dwindling, but there is still a great need for Our Lady of the Way.

1. It is the only school in the west end of the district that offers students a Catholic education.
2. Under good leadership, the school's numbers will most likely increase. I have seen this happen before.
3. The school is one of the newest schools in the district and is still relatively young. It is built well and has many more years of use left in it.
4. The school provides a space for individuals to offer their services (piano lessons, tae kwon do, flu shots, etc.) and organizations to hold their events (CWL bake sales, K of C's fish fries, community baseball tournaments, etc.).
5. With talk of a mine being opened nearby, families will be drawn to the area and will be looking for schools for their children.

34. Board Response to the Presentation from Dennis Olinyk

Chair A. Leek read the Board's Response to the questions presented in Dennis Olinyk and David Sharp's presentation. He asked the committee if there were any questions.

Mary O'Connor asked if parents were involved in helping establish the strategic plan for the school. Principal Fejos Rousseau said that parents were involved in the planning. Mary also asked if any of the parents there were involved with the strategic plan for the school still had children enrolled in the school. Principal Fejos Rousseau said that they were not.

Father Albao asked for clarification on the "magic number" of enrollment that determines consideration

of closing a school. Superintendent of Business, C. Howarth, noted that there are a lot of factors to consider, besides financial, that determine whether or not a school remains open. The Ministry of Education has determined that 135 students is the capacity of Our Lady of the Way School. Fifty percent of that figure can trigger the Board implementing the ARC process. 50% capacity could warrant consideration of closing a school.

Father Albao asked for clarification on the per capita school funding allotment and who establishes and approved the school budget. Superintendent of Business, C. Howarth, explained that the school is not entirely funded based on student enrollment as the school receives additional funds due to its location. The budget is established by Senior Administration and approved by the Board. Chair A. Leek clarified that it is not just because of school enrolment that the ARC has been requested. School funding allotment and budget process review will be added to the next ARC agenda.

35. Next Meeting:

There is a discrepancy with the June 19th meeting as it conflicts with the Rainy River High School Graduation. The committee discussed the rescheduling of the fourth ARC meeting.

Moved by: Jack Vandenbrand

Seconded by: Mark Hyatt

That the fourth ARC meeting be rescheduled to June 26, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

CARRIED.

David Sharp asked if the general public could ask questions. Chair A. Leek explained that the ARC is here to collect information in order to form a recommendation to the Board about the future of Our Lady of the Way School. If you have questions, you can address your questions in writing to the Board.

Mr. Olinyk asked if the Board has ever considered an Accommodation Review at the school in the past. Superintendent of Business, C. Howarth, explained that a few years back the Board had consider doing an accommodation review of Our Lady of the Way School but decided to hold off at that time.

36. Adjournment

Moved by: Jack Vandenbrand

Seconded by: Mary O'Connor

THAT the ARC adjourn at 8:10 p.m..

CARRIED.



The Northwest Catholic District School Board

555 Flinders Avenue

Fort Frances, ON P9A 3L2

Accommodation Review Committee

Our Lady of the Way School

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2013

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Place: Our Lady of the Way School

37. Call to Order

The Accommodation Review Committee meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m..

38. Welcome & Prayer

Chair Leek welcomed the committee members and the community supporter.

Father Albao led the committee in prayer.

Board and School Resource

- Chris Howarth, Superintendent of Business
- Nicole Wood, Teacher

Community Representatives

- Father Alan Albao
- Mark Hyatt
- Anthony Leek
- Mary O'Connor
- Sandy Nielson
- Jack Vandenbrand

Regrets: Tara Hunter,
Mary-Catherine Kelly, Director of Education
Darlene Fejos-Rousseau, Principal

Community Attendance

There were approximately 40 community members in attendance at the Accommodation Review Meeting.

39. Approval of Agenda

The Chair requested that the agenda be amended to add a presentation by Nicole Wood, a letter submitted by Lori O'Connor, and that Mary Curtis's presentation be moved to the end of the presentations.

Moved by: Mark Hyatt

Seconded by: Jack Vandenbrand

The Agenda be approved as amended. CARRIED.

40. Approval of Minutes – May 29, 2013

The Minutes were approved with the addition of the sentences "Mary also asked if any of the parents there were involved with the strategic plan for the school still had children enrolled in the school. Principal Fejos Rousseau stated no," added under number 6. Board Response to the

Presentation from Dennis Olinyk.

Moved by: Sandy Nielson

Seconded by: Mary O'Connor

That the Minutes of the ARC for The Northwest Catholic District School Board dated May 29, 2013, be approved as amended.

CARRIED.

41. Public presentations

- Nicole Wood
Nicole reiterated that Our Lady of the Way School is the only school in the west end of the Rainy River District that offers a Catholic Education. Closing the school would be extremely detrimental to all families in the west end of the district choosing a Catholic Education. We have heard a lot of negative feedback throughout this process but I would like the public to know that teaching at Our Lady of the Way School is very rewarding and we have a very positive learning environment here. We function in a safe and inclusive environment where everyone has great respect for each other and strong friendships have been built. In this small school environment, staff can build individual education plans and deliver them in a nurturing and loving way. We only get one chance to make a difference. What will we do with this one chance?
- Rosanne Zimmerman, Past OLW School Council Chair
Chair A. Leek read a letter presented by Rosanne Zimmerman, which is posted on the board website as presentation #2.
- St. Patrick's CWL
Chair A. Leek read a letter presented by Frances Grant, Acting President for St. Patrick's CWL, which is posted on the board website as presentation #3.
- Krista Nielson
Chair A. Leek read a letter presented by Krista Nielson, which is posted on the board website as presentation #4.
- Lori O'Connor
Chair A. Leek read a letter presented by Lori O'Connor, which is posted on the board website as presentation #5.
- Mary Curtis
Mary Curtis asked if the ARC was going to meet face-to-face with the Board to present its recommendation. Chair A. Leek replied that he would be at the meeting to present the ARC's recommendation but he did not know if all the committee would be there. Mary feels all of the committee members should meet with the Trustees. She noted that we are a small Board with only six schools and now we are possibly losing one under the leadership of a Director that earns a salary comparable to Directors that lead big Boards. The spirituality comes out on top. That is why Catholic schools were established 170 years ago, 110 years ago in the Rainy River District. They were built by our immigrants, people from all over the world. They built their homes, their churches and then their schools. They knew what their priorities were. They had no Unions and Directors, but they had faith and genuine love. There is a motto, "Home, School & Church". If you remove the school, you remove the communication with the Church. Our parishes are already struggling. I would like the

Board to know how very serious this situation is. The Board did not listen to parents for 1.5 years and we lost those parents. Father talked about prayer at the last school mass. He told the children that you can pray anywhere you are. That one statement is life sustaining and you won't get that in a public school. She met a Board member on the street last week and expressed her concerns. She received a "howdy doody" reply, "Well it is up to you people in the west end, CWL and K of C's to attract students." She expressed her dissatisfaction with the fact that the Director and Principal were not in attendance at this meeting and that the community is left with the expectation that they are supposed to fix this problem. She noted that the Director said, "All in attendance at these meetings will have the opportunity to speak and be heard. Mary noted that there were no draft minutes from the last meeting posted on the website to view prior to attending this meeting.

Chair A. Leek noted that there is a certain amount of days that have to be put between meetings and there are timelines we need to adhere to. We are supposed to come up with a recommendation tonight but if we can't we could have another meeting.

Superintendent of Business, C. Howarth, confirmed that we are required to hold a minimum of four meetings. Sixty days, not including the summer, is required between the date the ARC provides its recommendation to the board and the board meeting at which the board decides on the future of the school.

42. Recap of enrolment numbers and grant information by Chris Howarth

Superintendent of Business, C. Howarth, reviewed the enrolment history of the school as posted on the Board's website. Enrollment has been declining since 2010/2011 and then plummeted last year. The enrolment hasn't changed since February 2013. He noted that the Minutes from the May meeting had not been posted as they were draft. As this is the last meeting for the summer, he will have committee members review the draft minutes for the June meeting and will then have them posted on the website. He reviewed the Value to Student, Board and Local Economy as posted on the Board's website. The committee will establish a recommendation that could be brought to the public Board meeting as early as November. The ARC could hold another public meeting if required. He reviewed the budget and revenues/grants generated by Our Lady of the Way School. He noted that the Board is in the process of attaining budget approval with a deficit that includes Our Lady of the Way School remaining open. If the school closes it would save the Board \$100,000 a year and the Board does have to be fiscally responsible. C. Howarth reiterated that the Board had considered the ARC process when enrolment was approximately 50 pupils but decided against it at that time.

Ellen Chojko-Bolec noted that when the school was built in 1986 it was built to accommodate 90 students and now the Board is saying it should accommodate 130 students. C. Howarth explained that there have been significant changes in the way the Ministry establishes classroom sizes since 1986.

A community member asked what the loss of tax revenue to the Board would be if the school closes. A lot of residents pay separate school taxes but don't have children in the school. C. Howarth explained that in 1998 the Province changed the way schools are funded. Now Boards receive a per pupil allocation and the property taxes collected are offset against this grant. Property taxes do not increase this allocation. It is still beneficial, however, that Catholic School Supporters direct their property taxes to the Catholic School System as it provides evidence of Catholic school support.

Dennis Olinyk said that, "What if the plummeting enrolment is an anomaly?" It would be tragic if the school was closed because of an anomaly. He and community members would like to see the new

Director of Education and Principal attend one more public meeting with the possibility of gleaning new or additional ideas and solutions to fix the low enrolment. He also wanted to know who will do the work or input that the current Director of Education and Principal would do as they are not here to participate in the last meeting.

Chair A. Leek said that all the information the committee has received will be gathered into a report and a recommendation will be established for the Board's consideration. C. Howarth noted that administration will assist in formatting the recommendation.

Mary Curtis noted that the Board should stand shoulder to shoulder with the community to rebuild the school. David Sharp commented that it is obvious by the lack of Trustee attendance that the school has no value to the Board.

Dan Maltais, OECTA President, commented that the committee has received a lot of negative feedback but in order to move forward the committee needs positive feedback and ideas to establish a recommendation with the reasons and means to keep the school open.

Laura Haner expressed that the school has prayers in the morning, noon and end of the day. She commented that there are a lot of varying perspectives as to what had been happening at the school throughout 2011/2012. She said she felt all the staff was doing an excellent job. With this Board or the public board, not all parents are happy with all teachers and Principals all the time. There are students that move from the public system to our system for this very reason and vice-versa.

Deacon George asked for a commitment from the committee to hold another meeting in order to have the new Director of Education and new Principal in attendance. Mr. Olynyk added that we should have one more meeting to come up with a holistic or problem solving solution to the low enrolment at the school. He doesn't feel that one year of low enrolment should dictate the closing of the school.

Chair A. Leek said that the committee will discuss the possibility of another meeting after reviewing the information received to date.

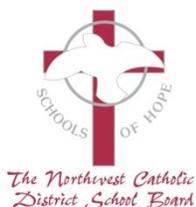
43. Adjournment

Moved by: Jack Vandenbrand

Seconded by: Mark Hyatt

THAT the ARC adjourn at 9:38 p.m..

CARRIED.



The Northwest Catholic District School Board

555 Flinders Avenue Fort Frances, ON P9A 3L2

Accommodation Review Committee

Our Lady of the Way School

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2013

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Place: Our Lady of the Way School

44. Call to Order

The Accommodation Review Committee meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m..

45. Welcome & Prayer

Chair Leek welcomed the committee members and the community supporter. Father Albao led the committee in prayer.

Board and School Resource

- Chris Howarth, Superintendent of Business
- Nicole Wood, Teacher
- Rick Boisvert, Director of Education
- Brendan Hyatt, Principal

Community Representatives

- Father Alan Albao
- Anthony Leek
- Mary O'Connor
- Sandy Nielson
- Jack Vandenbrand

Regrets: Tara Hunter, Mark Hyatt

Community Attendance

There were approximately 35 community members in attendance at the Accommodation Review Meeting.

Director of Education, Rick Boisvert, introduced himself and gave of brief overview of his personal history.

Principal, Brendan Hyatt, introduced himself as the returning principal of Our Lady of the Way School and provided an overview of his personal history with the school.

46. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Jack Vandenbrand

Seconded by: Sandy Nielson

That the Agenda of the ARC for The Northwest Catholic District School Board be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

47. Approval of Minutes – June 26, 2013

Moved by: Mary O'Connor

Seconded by: Jack Vandenbrand

That the Minutes of the ARC for The Northwest Catholic District School Board dated June 26, 2013, be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

48. Public presentations

- Letter from Bishop Colli

Chair A. Leek read a letter presented by Bishop Colli, which is posted on the board website.

The committee opened the meeting to the floor and received comments/feedback from Bob Sawchuk, Kevin Kennedy, David Sharp and Dennis Olinyk.

49. Adjournment

Moved by: Jack Vandenbrand

Seconded by: Father Al

THAT the ARC adjourn at 6:22 p.m..

CARRIED.



The Northwest Catholic District School Board
555 Flinders Avenue
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3L2

**Accommodation Review Committee
Our Lady of the Way School
Recommendation Meeting Minutes**

Date: Monday, September 30, 2013

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Place: Our Lady of the Way School

50. Call to Order

The Accommodation Review Committee meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m..

51. Welcome & Prayer

Chair Leek welcomed the committee members.

Father Albao led the committee in prayer.

Board and School Resource

Community Representatives

- Rick Boisvert, Director of Education
- Chris Howarth, Superintendent of Business
- Brendan Hyatt, Principal
- Nicole Wood, Teacher
- Father Alan Albao
- Anthony Leek
- Mark Hyatt
- Mary O'Connor
- Sandy Nielson
- Jack Vandenberg

Regrets: Tara Hunter

52. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Mark Hyatt

Seconded by: Jack Vandenberg

That the Agenda of the ARC for The Northwest Catholic District School Board be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

53. Approval of Minutes – June 26, 2013

Moved by: Jack Vandenberg

Seconded by: Sandy Nielson

That the Minutes of the ARC for The Northwest Catholic District School Board dated September 4, 2013, be approved as presented.

THAT the Minutes of the ARC for The Northwest Catholic District School Board following Public Meeting #5, be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

54. ARC Data Review & Recommendations to the Board

Committee member reviewed their opinions for reasons to keep Our Lady of the Way School opened based on the data received from the five public meetings. Committee member then reviewed their opinions on the reasons to close Our Lady of the Way School based on the data received. The Committee discussed the data, the reasons the school is in declining enrolment and the methods required to increase the enrolment. The committee unanimously agreed that they want Our Lady of the Way School to remain open.

Moved by: Father Alan Albao

Seconded by: Jack Vandenberg

That the ARC recommend to the Board to keep Our Lady of the Way School open.

CARRIED.

55. Board Report Format

Director Boisvert reviewed the ARC mandate. He also reviewed options that the committee could include in the recommendation to the Board. The committee discussed the details that they would like to include in the motion to the Board and the format of the motion. The following recommendations will be included:

1. That the NCDSB keep Our Lady of the Way School Open as a JK-8 school.
2. That the Board commits to a minimum of two classrooms in Our Lady of the Way School.
3. That a school action plan be developed for implementation in 2013-2014 to support a strong parish, community and school relationship that focusses on strengthening the relationship with existing families and attracting new students and families.

4. That the Board commit to review the ARC process to identify the strengths and concerns of the existing ARC process.

56. Next Steps

Moved by: Father Alan Albao

Seconded by: Jack Vandenbrand

That administration will develop a report based on information the committee has provided and submit the report back to the committee for their review and final consideration.

CARRIED.

57. Adjournment

Moved by: Mark Hyatt

Seconded by: Jack Vandenbrand

THAT the ARC adjourn at 8:00 p.m..

CARRIED.