

## ACCOMMODATION REVIEW – AMHERSTBURG STUDY AREA

**The following alternate accommodation plans are presented by Administration as options that address the objectives and reference criteria outlined in the ARC terms of reference:**

### **Consolidate St. Theresa at Stella Maris**

1. **Accommodation:** Consolidate St. Theresa at the Stella Maris site, with the addition of portables and/or the construction of an addition and renovation to the existing school building.

Programming: An Integration Committee composed of representatives from both school communities would be established to facilitate the merger and maintenance of optimal programming for the new school community to include consideration for the establishment of an instrumental music program. The plan would mean the closure of the before and after school latch key program at St. Theresa, however the new school community would have access to the child care program located near the Stella Maris site.

Transportation: Students from the St. Theresa community would be bused to the school community at the Stella Maris site in accordance with the Board's transportation policy.

Funding: The Board would apply to the Ministry of Education for capital funding for construction of additions/renovations to the Stella Maris building. If Ministry funding was not realized, funds would be available from cost savings of closing the St. Theresa site, and the Board would be able to accommodate students through the use of portables and minor renovations. To address possible over utilization of the site, the Board could consider a review of the boundaries between the new school community at Stella Maris, St. Bernard, St. Joseph (River Canard), St. Anthony (Harrow) and Holy Name (Essex).

### **Consolidate St. Theresa at St. Bernard**

2. **Accommodation:** Consolidate St. Theresa at the St. Bernard site with construction and/or renovations. Considering the availability of surplus space (utilization rate of St. Bernard at 57%), the costs to renovate the St. Bernard site should be feasible.

Programming: An Integration Committee composed of representatives from both school communities shall be established to facilitate the merger and maintenance of optimal programming for the new school community to

include consideration for the establishment of an instrumental music program. The plan would mean the closure of the before and after school latch key program at St. Theresa, however the new community would have access to the child care program located near the St. Bernard site. The new school community at the St. Bernard site would also benefit from the Board's Early Learning Program.

Transportation: Students from the St. Theresa community would be bused to the school community at the St. Bernard site in accordance with the Board's transportation policy

Funding: The Board would apply to the Ministry of Education for capital funding for renovations to the St. Bernard building. If Ministry funding was not realized, funds would be available from cost savings of closing the St. Theresa site and the Board would be able to accommodate students through the use of portables and minor renovations. To maximize utilization of the site the Board could consider a review of the boundaries between the new school community, Stella Maris, St. Anthony (Harrow), Holy Name (Essex) and St. Joseph (River Canard).

### **Close St. Theresa and accommodate students at Stella Maris and St. Bernard**

3. **Accommodation:** St. Theresa is currently operating at forty –seven percent (47%) capacity and this underutilization results in a decrease in Ministry funding. If the school were closed, the student population could be accommodated at St. Bernard and Stella Maris

Programming: Students would benefit from the established programming at St. Bernard and Stella Maris

Transportation: Students would be bused in accordance with Board transportation policy.

Funding: The increased capacity at St. Bernard and the cost savings from the closure of St. Theresa could result in increased Ministry funding to assist in accommodating the students at the St. Bernard and Stella Maris sites.

**Note:    *Numbering of the above options is provided for reference only and does not reflect any ranking of alternatives.***

**The following alternative accommodation plans are presented by the Accommodation Review Committee for public consultation and consideration within the ARC study:**

1. **Accommodation Plan would include the following:**
  - Remain status quo for all three schools and monitor potential growth within the area.
  - Review boundaries to include St. Anthony, Harrow and St. Joseph, River Canard.
  - Explore enhanced specialized programming adjustments such as French immersion, full day early learning programs and onsite childcare, with the intent of attracting students to all three schools.
2. **Close St. Bernard and accommodate students at St. Theresa and/or Stella Maris according to adjusted boundaries.**
3. **Consolidate St. Bernard and St. Theresa in a new school building at a neutral site, dependant on Ministry funding.**

***Note: These are preliminary options presented for consultation by the ARC and the public. The ARC and/or Board administration may create alternative options as a result of the public consultation process.***

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