

**May 28, 2008 - Presentation to the Budget Advisory Committee, Waterloo
Catholic District School Board**

by Shelley Clifford and Lee Ann Wetzel

Concerns of the St. Boniface School Community on the potential Grade 4/5/6 Split

For the Community

- based on conversations with the Ministry of Education and local MPP office, School Council is aware of a potential exemption available from the cap of 23 students for Grade 3/4;
- this would be the only triple split within the School Board; this is not by any stretch an everyday occurrence with a template to apply to the situation;
- given the nature of the class, the triple split will be complicated by known behaviour issues, social, emotional and physical concerns as there could be close to a four year span in ages;
- attention of teacher will be further divided among an unknown number of I.E.P. students;
- who will decide which four children are separated from their peers and what criteria will be used to establish which Grade 4 students can best handle this? How can physically removing up to four students from the group they have always been with be beneficial to the students or the teachers? This has already caused a great deal of stress for some students.
- this has a far reaching impact on a small school and will mean one less teacher capable of devoting time to extracurricular events and sports teams, thereby increasing the burden on remaining staff. This will affect all students as everyone could be penalized when events and sports teams are cancelled due to the inability of teachers to participate.
- unfortunately this problem may self-remedy as at least two families have expressed that if this move is pursued, they will consider transferring to the public board. Is this the message we want to send to parents? As Catholic parents we want to support Catholic education.

Expectations from School Board

- Request Budget Advisory Committee to recommend to the next Committee of the Whole or Board meeting that the Primary Class Size projections for St. Boniface School be submitted to the Ministry of Education as 25 students for Grade 3/4 and 19 students for Grade 5/6 with comments and/or explanations as to why this particular class does not meet the target.