

**Southeast Galt School Closure Review**  
**Public Consultation Review #4: October 16, 2012**  
**Public Comments/Questions**

<b>Comments/Questions</b>	<b>Response (if applicable)</b>
<p>Is the cost of purchasing Lincoln Ave. the same cost of renovating St. Anne? Is the renovation cost at Lincoln Ave. exact or just an estimate?</p> <p>Have we had an inspector come and examine Lincoln Ave.?</p> <p>Has a final decision been made or will there another vote?</p>	<p>The addition to St. Anne is approximately the same cost of renovations to Lincoln Ave. We would have to purchase Lincoln Ave, however, we would be able to sell St. Anne and recover the cost to purchase Lincoln. The renovation cost is an estimate based on what was examined by our facility employees.</p> <p>We had our facility employees along with Waterloo Region District School Board employees examine the school.</p> <p>There is one more ARC meeting to take place and we cannot confirm whether there will be another vote as more deliberation will be taking place. The recommendations made by the ARC will be reviewed by the Trustees for final decision.</p>
<p>Has anyone taken the traffic on Dundas Street into consideration for the children at St. Anne to attend Lincoln Ave? There is a crossing guard there, however, I have seen the crossing guard almost get hit on a daily basis?</p> <p>Land wise, it's noted that St. Anne is very hilly and will be more difficult to build on because of that. St. Anne has land beside Allison Park where the property is not on a hill, why not add there?</p>	<p>There is a safe crossing and regardless of the school (either St. Anne or Lincoln Ave.) children will have to cross Dundas Street to get to school.</p> <p>That is a possibility, however, the ARC's preferred option is to purchase Lincoln Ave. because it makes more sense for walkers.</p>
<p>When showing the proposals, you mentioned that the children from St. Anne's and St. Ambrose will all be together at a new school but this is not the case for the children at St. Francis. Some children will have to move twice, first to Lincoln and then to the new Southeast Galt school. St. Francis children seem to be getting the short end of the stick.</p>	<p>If at all possible we try to move entire schools together. However, this is not always possible. St. Vincent de Paul would be extremely large if all children from St. Francis were moved there. Therefore the boundary had to be split. Before students move, there will be transition planning and activities that will help make the move easier for students and families. Transition plans may include the opportunity to have children and teachers meet to make the move easier and build community amongst everyone.</p>
<p>Curious as to why we have not indicated what the purchase of Lincoln Ave. is going to cost?</p> <p>Is the cost of renovating Lincoln Ave. the same as St. Anne? The board seems to have all kinds of money to build a new school, why not upgrade all the current schools under review?</p>	<p>Sale price is not confirmed, however, the sale of St. Anne's will offset the price of purchasing Lincoln Ave.</p> <p>The cost to renovate Lincoln Ave. is about the same as the cost to build an addition to St. Anne. The ARC did have options with no closures, however, through thorough meetings, the preferred option best meets the mandate of the ARC.</p>

<p>Who would we sell St. Anne's to?</p> <p>Is Allison Park for sale?</p>	<p>Unknown at this time. We would first have to offer the property to other school boards and municipal agencies. If they don't purchase the property it would be offered through a public tender process.</p> <p>The public board will be selling Allison Park but they have not yet put it up for sale to the public.</p>
<p>How can we have Catholic students go to a public school? Do you want students not to be Catholic?</p>	<p>We would reopen Lincoln Ave. as a Catholic school.</p>
<p>When deciding Lincoln Ave., you noted that we looked at walkers; the reality is that most of our kids don't walk and parents drive.</p> <p>Parents don't think it is safe for kids to walk.</p> <p>Did we consider social economics when making our decisions? Good schools have good mix and this proposal does not address this.</p>	<p>It is a parent's choice to drive their children, however, it is the Board's expectation that children in walking distance walk.</p> <p>The Board is currently working on programs to promote safe walking to and from school. This is a Board wide initiative.</p> <p>When developing options, the ARC looked mainly at geographic area. We did not go into social economics.</p>
<p>We live in Section H, my children will be moving to Lincoln Ave. and then to the new Southeast Galt school, so unfair, children will be so far from the new school.</p>	<p>Children will be moving with friends to Lincoln Avenue and the Board will have transition planning to help students integrate into the new school.</p>
<p>I am a parent at St. Anne's, however; my children are out of boundary; will they be accepted into the new school or sent back to home school?</p>	<p>Currently the ARC has not discussed Out of Boundary students for the schools under review. These students are subject to the Board's out of boundary procedure which requires a yearly request to the principal. Students could be sent back to their designated school at any point under Board policy.</p>
<p>Please provide a list of the ARC committee?</p> <p>And this is what you guys came up with?</p> <p>Are these reviews done regularly?</p> <p>What will it take to keep school from not closing and stay open?</p>	<p>Two parent representatives from each school under review, Superintendent, our Chief Financial Officer, principals of the schools, City of Cambridge representative and Board Trustees.</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No, it is completed on a per need basis.</p> <p>Families moving into the boundaries and larger lot sizes.</p>
<p>Has Allison Park community centre attached to St. Anne's been taken into consideration? What will happen to it?</p>	<p>We do not know what will happen to it. There is a City of Cambridge representative on the ARC who is well aware of the preferred option. We cannot confirm if there is the ability to accommodate the program elsewhere. The neighbourhood association is in operation at St. Anne as long as the school is in operation.</p>
<p>We would like to know what is going to happen to the teachers at St. Anne's, do our children get to stay with their teachers? My son depends on his teacher, it is a shame we are doing this. We will be lost without our principal; children can end up going the wrong way.</p>	<p>Enrollment will be up, which means there will likely be more teachers. We cannot guarantee that teachers will stay as there is a transfer process.</p>

<p>Is there a commitment from the board that there will be a transition process and bringing the three schools together as a family?</p>	<p>Principals and school councils work together to through the transition process. The superintendent of the schools guides the process. In the past we have had joint masses, opportunities to meet the teachers, etc.</p>
<p>Will parent have options to be included?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>I do not envy committee members. St. Anne and the Allison Park is a very distinct neighbourhood. Unless you live or work there, you would just drive by. The theme you hear tonight is loss, the feeling something is being taken away. We need to consider the social factor when considering the impact on the families in the neighbourhood.</p>	
<p>Curious about the teachers at St. Francis, will they start transferring to secure a job elsewhere?</p>	<p>There is a process in place for teachers. They may transfer to another school at any time, regardless of this review.</p>
<p>Is there a transition committee for the parents?</p> <p>Do parents have a say on the renovations in the new school?</p> <p>Education Assistants are vital staff in our school for some children, can we transfer the Education Assistants so that they remain with the same children?</p>	<p>It is up to the individual school, the principals will lead the transition.</p> <p>Typically parents do not get involved in the design but principals are. If parents have a specific concern, they should pass their concerns on to the school principal.</p> <p>We cannot guarantee this as CUPE has a transfer process.</p>
<p>Want to bring to the ARC's attention that the geographic area around Lincoln Ave. is not good. The street is very narrow, right now the bussing is a nightmare. If the preferred option is the plan going forward then we should plan a better space for buses. We are taking a grade 7 and 8 school and making it K-8, this means there will be more parents driving younger children, the traffic will be a horrible. We need to consider this.</p>	
<p>How many kids will there be in each classroom when the new schools open?</p>	<p>Class sizes are determined by the Ministry of Education. In primary (JK to grade 3) there is a cap of 20 students per class but 10% of the classes can go up to 23 students. In junior/intermediate (grade 4 to grade 8) the average class size is 24.5:1.</p>
<p>Currently my children are at St. Anne's and they are used to having classes of 15, now they will be thrown in to bigger classroom and they are not used to big classrooms, will make a huge difference for our kids.</p>	