

January 29, 2013

Dear Parents & Guardians:

As you know, in November, 2011 the Waterloo Catholic District School Board began a school closure review to address enrolment pressures affecting the Catholic elementary schools in southeast Cambridge (Galt). **St. Francis, St. Anne, St. Ambrose, St. Vincent de Paul** and **Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary Schools** were involved in the review.

At the time the review was announced it was noted *“a school closure review is a formal process used to evaluate the current and future school accommodation needs of the students in the study area. Options considered through the review may include the closure of existing schools, the construction of new schools or additions to existing schools, and/or changes to the school attendance boundaries.”*

Regularly updated information about the review has been posted on-line throughout the process at: www.wcdsb.ca/about/accom/SEGalt/index.html

Last night, the Board of Trustees made the following decisions (all subject to approvals and funding from the Ministry of Education:

Phase 1 (earliest possible implementation date is September, 2014)

- ✓ St. Anne CES will remain open and receive an addition;
- ✓ St. Ambrose CES will close and its students will move to St. Anne CES;
- ✓ Holy Spirit CES will receive a 98 pupil place addition.

Phase 2 (earliest possible implementation date is September, 2015)

- ✓ St. Vincent de Paul CES will receive a 305 pupil place addition;
- ✓ St. Francis CES will close and its students will move to St. Vincent de Paul CES and St. Anne CES

Phase 3 (earliest possible implementation date is September, 2017)

- ✓ A new 450 pupil place Catholic elementary school will be built in southeast Galt;
- ✓ Some students – depending on home address -- will move from Holy Spirit CES and St. Anne CES to the new school;
- ✓ Students who would have had to change schools twice as a result of the closures and boundary changes will have the opportunity to stay at their home school where possible – however, transportation will not be provided;
- ✓ Students in Grade 8 will be allowed to finish at their home schools where possible – however, transportation will not be provided.

School closures and boundary changes are never easy and the school board deeply appreciates the patience and thoughtful input received from families in the review area. Rest assured, our staff will be working as hard as possible to ensure as smooth a transition as possible as we move into our new and freshly renovated schools.

Sincerely,



Larry Clifford
Director of Education