



## News Release

October 29, 2013  
For immediate release

# Catholic Board Sets Dates for Rural West Waterloo School Closure Review Public Meetings

**Waterloo Region, ON** – On May 27, 2013 the Board of Trustees of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board voted to establish an **Accommodation Review Committee (ARC)** to conduct a school closure review on the west side of the Region of Waterloo involving the following schools: **St. Clement CES, St. Agatha CES, Holy Family CES, St. Nicholas CES, and Holy Rosary CES**. The review will conclude in late Spring, 2014.

The following schools are not being considered for closure: **St. Nicholas CES, Holy Rosary CES, Holy Family CES and St. Clement CES**.

The five schools in the review area currently have 1,576 student spaces available but only 1,316 students enrolled. The 260 student difference is the equivalent of one medium-sized school. Forty-one per cent of the students in the area live within walking distance of their school while 56% require transportation. Student yields from within the boundaries of all five schools are below the Board's region-wide average.

The goals of the Rural West Waterloo School Closure Review review are to:

- ✓ Develop an accommodation strategy that best serves the Catholic community over the long term;
- ✓ Determine long-term enrolment boundaries to balance school enrolment with school capacity;
- ✓ Examine the long-term sustainability of the schools in the Rural West area with particular focus on the impact of small schools;
- ✓ Address site size and facility condition issues at St. Agatha CES; and,
- ✓ Maximize the number of students able to walk to school.

The review process includes four public consultation sessions which will be held as follows:

**Thursday, December 5, 2013** ---- (St. Nicholas CES – 525 Laurelwood Dr., Waterloo)

**Monday, February 3, 2014** ---- (St. Agatha CES – 1869 Notre Dame Dr., St. Agatha)

**Thursday, March 20, 2014** ---- (Holy Family CES – 313 Huron St., New Hamburg)

**Thursday, April 10, 2014** ---- (Holy Rosary CES – 485 Thorndale Dr., Waterloo)

Meeting times and formats are still to be determined by the Accommodation Review Committee but will be announced well in advance of the first session.

Updated information on the Rural West Waterloo School Closure Review is available online at:  
<http://www.wcdsb.ca/about/accom/RWWaterloo/index.html>.

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 100,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 50 schools and five adult education facilities serving more than 40,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students in Waterloo Region – continuing a 177-year tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education. Follow us on Twitter: **@WCDSBNewsWire - #WCDSBAwesome**.

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