



News Release

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For immediate release

Catholic Board Trustees Conclude Southeast Galt School Closure Review

Waterloo Region, ON – The Board of Trustees of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board last night concluded a school closure review to address enrolment pressures affecting the Catholic elementary schools in southeast Cambridge (Galt). The review – the lengthiest in WCDSB history -- commenced in November, 2011. **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

In concluding the review the Board voted unanimously to take the following actions – pending appropriate Ministry of Education approvals and government funding:

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.

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 100,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 52 schools and five adult education facilities serving more than 40,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students in Waterloo Region – continuing a 176-year tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education. Follow us on Twitter: [@WCDSBNewsire](https://twitter.com/WCDSBNewsire) - [#WCDSBAwesome](https://twitter.com/WCDSBAwesome).

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