



**John Del Grande**  
**Trustee - Ward 7**  
Scarborough/North York

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December 11, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians & Staff:

I wish to bring to your attention the results of the CE19 School Accommodation Review initiated back in the spring of 2007.

On Wednesday evening [December 9, 2009] the Board Supervisor approved a final staff report "School Accommodation Review (2008-2009) St. Henry, St. Maximilian Kolbe & St. Sylvester." The approved recommendations were:

1. That St. Maximilian Kolbe be closed effective, June 30, 2011, and consolidated in an expanded addition at St. Henry to address the needs of future enrolment, including the Early Learning Program (ELP).
2. That a comprehensive review of administration uses be initiated at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. John Fisher, together with a review of the future uses of the St. Maximilian Kolbe facility.

The full report outlines the Board's response the original ARC recommendations including responding to community questions, comments and objections compiled as of October 2009. The full report can be viewed at

<http://www.tcdsb.org/trustees/Agendas/Supervision%20Team,%202009-12-09/Ministry%20Supervisor%20Agenda,%202009-12-09,%20part%202.pdf>

Despite trustees not being in a decision making capacity at this time, I did raise an objection that Catholic presence is being removed from the local community. Since taking office I have lobbied for expanded programming at St. Maximilian Kolbe in efforts to increase student enrolment combined with maximizing the schools use rather than outright close the facility. Unfortunately the overall declining enrollment together with the Ontario Ministry of Education funding, do not support and strengthen small schools.

I thank all those parents, students, staff and community members that attended the numerous meetings of the School Accommodation Review and for taking the time to appear before the Board including many of you who wrote emails and letters.

**What does this mean to your school community?**

St. Henry: Work will continue within the community as the Board finalizes plans to expanding the school facility. The school may be subject to increased student enrolment pressures next year and ultimate transfer of students from St. Maximilian Kolbe in 2011, consistent with the completion of the building addition.

St. Sylvester: The school may experience increased enrolment over the next few years as school boundaries and bussing zones are redistributed.

St. Maximilian Kolbe: Families need to consider their options for September 2011. Bussing will be expanded into the St. Maximilian Kolbe catchment area. Please discuss your child's future with your school principal including what alternatives and options you may be pursuing. Future staffing models and redeployment of staff to other schools will be consistent with the respective collective agreements.

**I will continue to work with your school communities to address any concerns and issues you may have to ensure a continued quality Catholic education for your child(ren).**

Sincerely,



John Del Grande  
TCDSB Trustee – Ward 7

cc: Toronto City Councillor, Ward 39 Scarborough-Agincourt  
Member of Provincial Parliament, Scarborough-Agincourt  
Pastor, Epiphany of Our Lord RCC