



John Del Grande
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May 7, 2009

Elementary
Schools

Dear Parents/Guardians/Staff at St. Maximilian Kolbe,

*Blessed
Kateri
Tekakwitha*

As you may be aware, last year, we participated in a school accommodation review (ARC). The three school communities put forward 8 recommendations focused on enhancing the student opportunities and accommodation within the cluster of schools (St. Henry/St. Max Kolbe/St. Sylvester) All ARC materials can be found at <http://www.tcdsb.org/facilities%20issues/SARC/henrymaxsylvester.htm>

*Epiphany of
Our Lord
Academy*

Holy Spirit

At the April 29th, 2009 board meeting, board staff put forward a final set of recommendations to be approved as a result of the ARC:

*Our Lady of
Guadalupe*

- 1) St. Maximilian Kolbe be closed effective June 30, 2011
- 2) St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Henry be consolidated at the existing St. Henry site
- 3) The approved 5 classroom addition at St. Henry be expanded by 2 classroom spaces to accommodate the additional students (subject to funding)

*Our Lady of
Wisdom*

*Precious
Blood*

From these final recommendations and associated report, it appears that not all the ARC recommendations were fully explored, amplified by the fact it has only been six months after the ARC recommendations were submitted. It is important to note that school closure was not mentioned at these meetings as a real possibility/option.

St. Aidan

St. Albert

St. Gerald

St. Henry

St. Kevin

St. Lawrence

St. Matthias

*St. Maximilian
Kolbe*

I encourage you to attend your next CSAC meeting scheduled for Monday May 11th to discuss the situation and go-forward strategies. I will make myself available for any community assistance in this regard. If these final recommendations are approved by the board supervisors, it will have a series downstream affects. I believe we need to offer real, viable alternatives to a wholesale school closure as a school closure will not only take away a neighbourhood school but may further drive families out of the Catholic system.

St. Sylvester

St. Timothy

I also invite you to show up at the upcoming Board meetings (May 27, June 10) where this matter will be discussed and decided upon.

Secondary
Schools

Sincerely,

Jan Vanier

John Del Grande

Mary Ward

P.S. Since the Board is being run a provincial supervision team other avenues you may wish to pursue are: local MPP Gerry Phillips & Minister of Education Kathleen Wynne