

TRANSCRIPTION OF COMMENTS – QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Board Information Session
February 16, 2011 – Nicholson

Eight (8) comment sheets received.

#1 School Affiliation: **Nicholson**

Question: If they close Nicholson will they be adding onto the facility of St. T's, such as another gym so that students are accommodated in physical fitness?

Answer: *The ARC will need to consider this*

Q: Will they be addressing the needs of the Lifeskills students ...there would be too many to attend to in one room?

A: *The ARC will need to consider this*

#2 School Affiliation: **Nicholson**

Q: If Nicholson is proposed to close, what will happen to specialty programs i.e. SHSM, IB, Extended French?

A: *The ARC will need to consider this*

Q: Also, how will St. Theresa accommodate a merge of 2 Life Skills centres?

A: *The ARC will need to consider this*

Q: Will a second gymnasium be constructed to accommodate the increased population?

A: *The ARC will need to consider this*

#3 School Affiliation: **Nicholson**

Q: Why was the information in this report issued at this time given registrations in kindergarten and high school?

A: *The Ministry of Education required all Boards to submit capital plans by the end of January.*

Q: Isn't the board concerned about the immediate enrolment as a result of the publication?

A: ***Yes the Board is concerned, however it is important that the Board engage in long term capital planning and that this process is public and transparent.***

Comment: Parents enrolling their children at public schools rather than risk sending children to a school they perceive as closing.

Q: Why did our board publish the specifics of the research (i.e. name closing schools) when the public board did not?

A: ***See answer above***

#4 School Affiliation: **Nicholson**

Q: I am wondering when there will be a meeting to discuss the future of Nicholson?

A: ***The Board's Pupil Accommodation Review Committee (process) will facilitate public discussions about the future of schools.***

Q: I am wondering whether there is any consideration about making Nicholson a 7 to 12 school?

A: ***The ARC could consider this.***

#5 School Affiliation: **St. Michael**

Q: French Immersion – at what point will FI be transferred to St. T's?

A: ***The Board has not made any decisions regard the future of any schools. The release of the Long Term Capital Plan will enable public consultation to begin on the Proposed recommendations, developed to this stage by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. These consultations will follow the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) process and will consider issues such as this.***

C: This needs to be answered before the end of the F12/F13 year or the potential grade 9 of students will need to move schools to ensure a seamless high school,

C: It is almost prejudicial to not offer FI to our children as you are restricting their ability to get better jobs.

C: We are a bilingual country we need our children to be bilingual.

#6 School Affiliation: **Nicholson**

C: I appreciated the information presented at tonight's session, particularly the differentiation made between the consultant's report and the proposed Accommodation Review Committee.

C: My concern lies in the perception left with the larger community that did not attend this information session. Of the release of the report, many people will take away only the closure of Holy Rosary and NCC, and may make concrete decisions as to where to enroll their children in the next few years. The Board should take steps to make the larger community aware that this is a proposal only, and that school closures will be determined at a later date through the ARC process. I am concerned that, without this, parents may redirect their children to the public board.

#7 School Affiliation: **Nicholson**

C: I keep hearing the comment "stewardship of resource". I hope the ARC committee will take into account that we are stewards of children of catholicity first. If you create a huge high school of 1200+ students we lose our community and kids lose their individuality among the masses.

#8 School Affiliation: **Nicholson**

C: Please, please communicate with the general public about what the "plan: released means. Parents ask me (actually tell me) they hear NCC is closing.

C: You need to let them know NOTHING is decided.

C: We need the consultants at these meetings to answer questions.

C: Tonight's format sends a message to the public (intentional or not) that discussion are not wanted.