

Monday, May 10, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Board

DISCUSSION/DECISION

8.1 Sister O'Brien Consultation

Trustees received an overview of the Sister O'Brien consultation from Supt. John McAuliffe, who presented the report in place of Supt. Weninger, who was ill. Trustees heard that enrolments in the English program at Sister O'Brien have declined during the past four years; 74 students are expected to register in Grades 1 to 8 in fall 2010. In French, 186 students are expected to register.

In light of the declining enrolment in English, two consultations were held with the school community earlier this year. Afterwards, surveys were distributed to families, asking them to express their preference for four options:

- Maintain the status quo
- Move the English program to St. Angela
- Transition English students to St. Angela (Grades 6 – 8 remain at Sister O'Brien)
- Close Sister O'Brien.

Parents clearly indicated their preference for maintaining the status quo. In its report to the Board, administration recommended this option, which means four teachers would be provided for grades 1 – 8 for the 2010-2011 school year.

Before voting to approve this option, the majority of trustees expressed their confidence in the school and its program and indicated they wanted to give the school and its parent community an opportunity to build its enrolment.