

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009 SPECIAL Meeting of the Board

DISCUSSION/DECISION

8.1 – St. Mary Community School Concept Plan

Trustees received a presentation from administration regarding a revised concept plan for St. Mary Community School.

Presentation of this plan included a review of how plans for the new school had unfolded to date:

- December 2008 - Board of Education approves original concept plan. It includes larger allowances for daycare and pre-kindergarten and a larger-than-usual floor area to accommodate enhancements to serve the community. The school's size is based on opening enrolment of 352 students and a core capacity of 430. The plan is sent to the Ministry of Education for its review.
- April 2009 – Ministry adjusts its enrolment projection to an opening enrolment of 300 students and a core enrolment of 375; floor space is reduced from what was included in GSCS's original plan.
- June-August 2009 – Further meetings held with Ministry officials, who affirm their enrolment projections from April 2009.
- September 2009 – Additional consultations are held with the Ministry. Components such as community spaces, the walking track, instruction support and counselling have now been retained in the concept plan.

Supt. Gordon Martell told trustees that the revised plan will be reviewed with the St. Mary's school community. This is a continuation of discussions about how community spaces will be incorporated into the new school. Supt. Martell indicated that space for wellness and fitness programming is maintained, as is a daycare and community kitchen.

Though some of the original enhancements to the building were downsized, the board was told that these were still accommodated in the smaller footprint of the September 2009 concept plan.

Trustees voted to approve the revised plan.