

June 7, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Thank you for your patience and understanding as Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) staff considers solutions to address enrolment increases at St. Sofia Catholic Elementary School. Last evening, DPCDSB staff and trustee Mario Pascucci hosted a community meeting to present options to address the challenges associated with increased enrolment and to solicit feedback from the community. The meeting was attended by over 250 parents and the feedback staff received from this meeting is invaluable to informing a report that will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the Regular Meeting of the Board on June 21.

Last evening's presentation and discussion related to options associated with both short and long-term solutions.

#### SHORT-TERM SOLUTION OPTIONS

**Option 1:** Pause enrolment at St. Sofia for the balance of this year and for the entire 2022-2023 school year and redirect new student registrations to their home school.

**Option 2:** Use an existing elementary school to redirect St. Sofia Grade seven and Grade eight students for the 2022-2023 school year. This will allow for continued enrolment at St. Sofia.

Last evening's meeting was recorded and can be accessed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Alternatively, any questions you may have regarding the two short-term options can be addressed by school administration and/or Superintendent Cairine MacDonald.

#### ACTION REQUIRED

DPCDSB was pleased with the level of engagement at last evening's meeting and overwhelmingly, feedback from parents in attendance supported Option 1. However, before staff develops a final proposal for trustees' consideration, we want to provide an opportunity for staff and parents/guardians to provide direct input. **In this regard, please complete this short survey by Friday, June 10.**

[CLICK HERE to complete the Short-Term Solutions Option Survey](#)

#### LONG-TERM SOLUTION OPTIONS

**Option 1:** Relocate the entire St. Sofia school community to a larger school commencing in September 2023. The school currently being considered is St. Gertrude Catholic Elementary School located on Ceremonial Drive in Mississauga. St. Gertrude CES was closed in 2017 and will require some work to be ready for students in 2023.

**Option 2:** Establish a second Byzantine Rite Catholic Elementary School with defined boundaries for both schools. Please note that the second school would not be a new build; an existing facility would be used to establish a second school.

The long-term solution options require further consultation with the school community. Staff is committed to working with the school community during the 2022-2023 school year to inform a decision.

We appreciate the tremendous stress borne by the St. Sofia community and we want to do our best to seek a fair and equitable solution that ensures appropriate accommodation for all students, both existing and those who continue to arrive. Please be assured that we will continue to work closely with you to arrive at such a solution.

May God guide us throughout this important engagement process and give us the wisdom to arrive at the best solution possible for students and families.

Sincerely,

Marianne Mazzorato, Ed.D.  
Director of Education