



For Immediate Release  
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## **Trustees Approve Recommendation of Accommodation Review Committee for Corpus Christi and John XXIII Schools**

**(North Bay, ON)** – At its regular Board meeting of Tuesday, May 27, 2014, the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board approved the recommendation of the Accommodation Review Committee which proposed that Corpus Christi and John XXIII schools be consolidated into a dual-track Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 school at the John XXIII School site, effective September 2014.

*"The ARC Committee has worked diligently at meeting their mandate to study, report and make recommendations on the accommodation options for both schools under review. We congratulate the committee on a job well done resulting in bringing the best of both schools together"* said Barbara McCool, Chair of the Board.

John XXIII and Corpus Christi schools have been experiencing significantly low enrolment and operate at expenditure levels beyond the funding guidelines. Currently, John XXIII is at 26.9 percent of capacity and Corpus Christi is at 83.5 percent. The schools are located within four kilometres from each other. John XXIII offers a JK to Grade 8 Early French Immersion program, and Corpus Christi offers JK to Grade 6 regular English program. The consolidated school will become a Dual Track school, JK to Grade 8, offering families the option of a regular English program or French Immersion, within the same school.

In making the recommendation to the Board, the Accommodation Review Committee and Senior Administration have identified a number of benefits and positive long-term results from the consolidation of the two schools, some of which include:

- Consolidating John XXIII and Corpus Christi Schools at John XXIII into a dual-track school will allow the continuation of both Regular English and Early French Immersion programming, allowing parents to have children in different programs while attending the same school.
- Consolidation will permit more rich opportunities for students, including a full complement of extracurricular activities, fewer itinerant staff, enhanced culture (diversity, increase in student peer relationships); greater team teaching opportunities with a larger staff; more parents for volunteer opportunities and greater program offerings.
- John XXIII would offer an improved physical environment: sidewalks for walking safety; full-sized gymnasium; larger parking area and a more optimal transportation loading and unloading zone.
- A rise in enrolment will increase administrative support at the consolidated school.
- Consolidating into a K to 8 school will eliminate one transition for Grade 6 students at Corpus Christi, and provides greater leadership opportunities for the intermediate students.
- A consolidated school would reduce the overall operating costs for the Board for these two under-utilized schools.
- Other financial benefits of consolidating two schools include bringing resources together from both schools i.e., technology, larger fundraising group, educational resources, sports equipment, and playground equipment; and a reduction to field trip transportation costs.

For more information, please contact Grace Barnhardt, Superintendent of Business, at (705) 472-1201. Accommodation related enquiries can also be submitted electronically to [arc@npssc.ca](mailto:arc@npssc.ca). Additional background information is available at [www.npssc.ca](http://www.npssc.ca).

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