

**SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

**ACCOMMODATION REVIEW 2015:01**

**BYNG PUBLIC SCHOOL/CLEARVIEW MEADOWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**STAYNER COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE**

**TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2016 – 6:00 P.M.**

**A G E N D A**

**ROY EDWARDS ROOM**

- A.** (1) Roll Call  
(2) Approval of Agenda  
(3) Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**B. DELEGATION**

1. Janet Forster

**C. FUTURE BUSINESS AND ADJOURNMENT**

Regular Meeting of the Board – May 25, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., followed immediately by the Committee of the Whole in Closed Session (Georgian Room), Public Session will resume at 7:00 p.m. (Roy Edwards Room).

**SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**SPECIAL ARC BOARD MEETING**

**ACCOMMODATION REVIEW 2015:01  
BYNG PUBLIC SCHOOL/CLEARVIEW MEADOWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
STAYNER COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE**

**PUBLIC SESSION  
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2016 – 6:00 P.M. – ROY EDWARDS ROOM**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

REPORT	FYI	Decision Req.	MOTION
			Call Meeting to order. Roll Call
		√	That the agenda be approved as printed.
			Declaration of Conflicts of Interest
PUBLIC SESSION			
Delegation	√		1. Janet Forster
		√	Motion to Adjourn

## ARC DELEGATION

Submitted by: Janet Forster, Byng PS Parent Council member

The Initial Staff Report which was widely publicized was the basis for which most Byng families and community members learned what the SCDSB intended for Byng and the two other schools. The most common comment throughout the members of the community who were actively involved in the ARC process was that they expected the 'preferred option C' to be the final outcome.

That option contained an effective timeline of September, 2019.

That is the date for which the members of the community expected these changes to the Towns' schools to commence.

To accelerate the timeline indicates a haste and a lack of concern for the welfare of the students who are about to lose their school.

That haste and its negative impact can clearly be viewed in Figure 1 of the Final Report. There is no clear reason to remove the two senior classes from Byng as early as 2018. The students who would be entering into grade 8 in September 2018 will have invested ten years at Byng Public School and even with the knowledge that the school was likely to close they have been of the belief that they would be able to continue in the 90+ year tradition of the school and graduate from Byng, based on the timelines listed in the preferred option of the Initial Staff Report.

To coincide the timing of the "junior high" transition in Stayner with the similar process in Elmvale is not fully capitalizing on such an opportunity. Rather than make the two processes coincide it would be advantageous to Stayner's students to have Elmvale proceed as planned and allow the Stayner transition team to closely monitor what worked and what did not work to better improve upon the process. To not take advantage of 'lessons learned' by Elmvale is to waste a unique opportunity.

In para 4(a) under the heading of Timing; the Final Report provides a primary reason for a change to the timing as 'an earlier opportunity to begin improving student retention and possible programming enhancements'. The student retention issue at SCI has been ongoing for many years and the idea of stepping the plan up by a full year is not going to have any significant impact on SCI whereas alternatively it will create a significant impact on the children at both elementary schools and their expectations that they could finish their elementary school careers at their established schools.

In para 4(e) under the heading of Capital Requirements and Funding it states that due to ‘timing’ the SCDSB is unable to complete a business case until the 2016-2017 funding cycle. If they require the time to get that process completed then why rush the two senior grades of the elementary schools into SCI. Why not take the time to do it properly.

In para 4(g) under the heading of Partnerships it states that they have only just begun preliminary conversations with municipal and community entities. Why not take the time to move the two senior grades into SCI in a timely manner to allow these partnership opportunities to develop in the fullness of time. To rush through this transition is a detriment to the senior students of both elementary schools.

The conclusion within the Final Report states that ‘The ARC and most of the broader community accepted that change was necessary’. It is in fact very clear that our community understood the pressures and limitations facing all three of the Towns’ schools and took a common sense approach in this issue instead of applying emotion at the loss of such a historical, cornerstone of our Town. I believe that that common sense approach should be respected and applauded. To hastily rush through the transition of the two senior grades of the elementary school and the closure of Byng itself is to abuse the good faith that the townspeople have placed in the SCDSB and their belief that the best interest of the children would be foremost in this decision making process.

I am here to ask the Trustees of the SCDSB to adopt the recommendations of the Final Report with the timelines that were originally supplied being, transition of the two senior grades effective September, 2019 and the actual closure of Byng PS in June of 2020, or alternatively coincide the transition and the closure to be effective at one time being June 2020.