



# York Catholic District School Board

Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario L4G 0M1

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October 25, 2021

Clement Chong  
Project Manager, Richmond Hill Centre  
Office of the City Manager  
City of Richmond Hill

**Via Email**

**Re: Draft RHC Study Report and Draft RHC Secondary Plan**

Dear Clement:

Thank you for the information provided thus far regarding the Richmond Hill Centre Secondary Plan, including the Draft RHC Study Report and Draft RHC Secondary Plan provided to agencies for review and comment. York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) staff have reviewed the material and have the following preliminary comments to provide:

1. The report should identify the number of school sites required by the Boards. ie) YCDSB requires 1 elementary school site in addition to the existing St. John Paul II (per our letter of March 2020), and YRDSB requires x # of school sites.

2. Section 1.1 - Please refer to our Board as YCDSB (York Catholic District School Board)

3. Section 10.1, pg. 58 states:

*Many urban areas have found success with co-location of community facilities and urban standards for school sites that allow them to maximize the efficient use of land while still providing the necessary requirements to serve the community...*

and

*...Schools will be expected to be built to an urban standard, and co-location will be encouraged to support the achievement of complete communities and avoid stand-alone facilities.*

Board staff have concerns with these statements. They do not reflect or include any mention of costs associated with construction and long term operating costs of urban/vertical schools. This is also inconsistent with Board policies. As we have discussed previously, Ministry of Education funding benchmarks do not address cost premiums associated with urban/vertical schools and new schools are subject to funding approval by the Ministry of Education. I would ask that the following language be added to this paragraph:

***...Provided suitable funding arrangements are in place to allow for alternative arrangement(s) to accommodate the required capital components and long term operating costs of a typical school site***



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## 4. Sections 1.6.2.1 and Section 1.6.2.2 – Schools

Within the Draft Secondary Plan (also in Section 10.2.9 in Study Report), sections 1.6.2.1 and 1.6.2.2 are somewhat limiting and more clarity should be provided.

1.6.2.1 states that "*Schedule 4 identifies 2 potential schools and ultimate number of schools required will depend on size and make-up of the residential population*". However, 1.6.2.2 states that the precise location, size and phasing shall be determined through the development approvals process for "blocks that include an identified school site". This language can be interpreted to mean that there are only 2 school sites since only 2 blocks have been identified in Schedule 4. Additionally, if a school site cannot be accommodated in one of the 2 blocks identified, the policy does not allow looking at another block for a school site.

5. Considering revising 1.6.2.5 to read: "Strategies to optimize use of land may include but are not limited to: integrating schools within development, building multi-storey schools, minimizing parking and pick up/drop off areas, and co-locating schools with compatible community uses such as daycare facilities, ***all of which need to be consistent with the policies or requirements of the respective School Board and provided suitable funding arrangements are in place to allow for alternative arrangement(s) to accommodate potential strategies***"

6. The Secondary Plan should include policy language that permits school sites to be relocated, added or removed without amendment to the Plan.

We look forward to working with the City to ensure the adequate provision of school sites within the City of Richmond Hill.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 905.713.1211, x12379.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam McDonald", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Adam McDonald  
Senior Planner