

MINUTES OF ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC) Central Whitby MEETING

Wednesday, February 4, 2009
3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Education Centre - Room 2007

In Attendance:

Chair: Joe Hircock
Secretary: David Visser

Members (alpha by school):

Monique deVillers (Principal, Capt. M. VandenBos)
Debra Hayes (Non-teaching Rep, Capt. M. VandenBos)
Carole McLeod (Teacher Rep, Capt. M. VandenBos)
Judy Wityszyn (Parent Rep, Capt. M. VandenBos)
Alana Browne (Teacher Rep, Florence M. Heard)
Chris Montgomery (Parent Rep, Florence M. Heard)
Sharon Murdoch (Parent Rep, Florence M. Heard)
Monica Porteous (Non-teaching Rep, Florence M. Heard)
Brigitte Sopher (Principal, Florence M. Heard)
Carol Bell (Teacher Rep, Jack Miner)
Trudy Collins (Principal, Jack Miner)
Gail Dyson (Non-teaching Rep, Jack Miner)
Cathy Wade (Parent Rep, Jack Miner)
Lynda Darling (Teacher Rep, Leslie McFarlane)
Scott Irwin (Parent Rep, Leslie McFarlane)
Jim Olson (Principal, Leslie McFarlane)
Kirsty Sinclair (Parent Rep, Leslie McFarlane)
Judy Whiteman (Non-teaching Rep, Leslie McFarlane)
Marion Fulcher (Non-teaching Rep, Palmerston)
Sylvia Land (Parent Rep, Palmerston)
Tim Ralph (Principal, Palmerston)
Angie Weiss (Parent Rep, Palmerston)
Joe Hamilton (Non-teaching Rep, Pringle Creek)
Sue Lunn (Principal, Pringle Creek)
Jill MacCharles-Crain (Teacher Rep, Pringle Creek)
Steven Misner (Parent Rep, Pringle Creek)

Facilitator: Lygia Dallip

ARC Resource Staff: Carey Trombino, Senior Planner
Janet Edwards, Administrative Officer – Whitby/Oshawa
Danielle Pépin, Administrative Assistant

Regrets: Daniel Del Bianco, Consultant
Leilah McBride (Teacher Rep, Palmerston)
Jacquie Weber (Parent Rep, Jack Miner)

Absent: Linda Lyons (Parent Rep, Capt. M. VandenBos)

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Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, called the meeting to order. He welcomed the ARC members and referred the group to the documents to be inserted in their binder. He reminded the members to sign in.

The Chair requested that the membership review the agenda. There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

Motion to accept the February 4, 2009, Agenda

Moved: Monique deVillers (Principal, Capt. M. VandenBos)

Seconded: Carol Bell (Teacher Rep, Jack Miner)

Carried

The Chair requested that the ARC review the Minutes of January 21, 2009. These reflect comments made regarding the draft Report to the Director. There were no comments resulting from the review of the minutes.

Motion to accept the Minutes of January 21, 2009

Moved: Monica Porteous (Non-teaching Rep, Florence M. Heard)

Seconded: Debra Hayes (Non-teaching Rep, Capt. M. VandenBos)

Carried

The Chair requested that the ARC review the minutes of the 4th Public Meeting that took place on January 28, 2009.

An ARC member sought clarification to paragraph 8 of page 4, in which the cost difference between Scenario 1 and amended Scenario 2 was listed at approximately \$5M.

David Visser, ARC Secretary, acknowledged that he had approximated the cost differential to be \$5M however, he recognizes that the differential is actually in the range of \$3.5M to \$4.2M.

Motion to amend paragraph 8 of page 4 to include the approximate range of \$3.5M to \$4.2M in brackets immediately following the reference to \$5M.

Moved: Angie Weiss (Parent Rep, Palmerston)

Seconded: Lynda Darling (Teacher Rep, Leslie McFarlane)

Carried

A member requested that paragraph 6 on page 5 be edited for clarity.

Motion to reword paragraph 6 of page 5 to delete "into two"

Moved: Angie Weiss (Parent Rep, Palmerston)

Seconded: Steve Misner (Parent Rep, Pringle Creek)

Carried

A member sought clarification to paragraph 4 on page 6 regarding what was meant by the Palmerston community's support of "fiscal responsibility".

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David Visser, ARC Secretary, acknowledged that the draft minutes did not accurately reflect the point he had made. He then restated the point for the ARC to consider and adopt. "He added that there was a tremendous amount of feedback from both the Palmerston Avenue PS community surrounding the rebuild of the school as well as a tremendous amount of feedback to be fiscally responsible."

A motion was made to adopt the above statement.

Moved: Angie Weiss (Parent Rep, Palmerston)

Seconded: Judy Wityszyn (Parent Rep, Capt. M. VandenBos)

Carried

Motion to accept the Minutes of the 4th Public Meeting of January 28, 2009, with approved amendments.

Moved: Angie Weiss (Parent Rep, Palmerston)

Seconded: Sue Lunn (Principal, Pringle Creek)

Carried

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, referred the ARC to Agenda item 5, emails and voicemails. He indicated that based on the input received from the community, there was nothing contained in the emails and voicemails that specifically commented on the ARC's draft Report to the Director. He asked the group to review the proposed responses in order to provide the individuals with a response.

A member asked if the responses had already been sent out.

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, replied that they had not been sent out as yet.

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, stated that feedback from the 4th Public Meeting included people who had indicated they were unaware of the ongoing ARC process. In response to this concern, he told the ARC that they had done an excellent job of responding to parents and their communities. He acknowledged that there will always be instances where people remain unaware of ongoing processes.

A member suggested that there be a general message placed on the website to thank people for their interest and input into the ARC process and to state that the ARC's report had been submitted to the Director of Education.

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, indicated that this was a good idea and suggested it be considered at the ARC's final meeting on February 11, 2009.

Motion to accept responses as provided

Moved: Judy Whitman (Non-teaching Rep, Leslie McFarlane)

Seconded: Lynda Darling (Teacher Rep, Leslie McFarlane)

Carried

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Agenda Item 6 – Discussion of the Draft Report to the Director of Education

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, indicated that based on the input received from the community, through the public meeting process, emails, and, voicemails there were no specific comments on the ARC's draft Report to the Director.

The Chair referred the ARC members to page 5 of the January 21, 2009, minutes where the parent representatives in the ARC had put forward recommendations to be considered for inclusion in the report. He indicated that these proposed recommendations had not been discussed on January 21st 2009 and should be discussed at today's meeting.

A group discussion ensued.

The group discussion included a request that the Board consider having an electronic scenario building model available to the ARC members at the working meetings so they could immediately see the results of their proposed scenarios. It was felt that the availability of such a tool would advance the process.

David Visser, ARC Secretary, indicated that while this was a great idea, he was concerned about the risk of making errors when reconfiguring the spreadsheet format to meet the needs of the group, e.g., a formula not being copied over to other cells properly. This could lead to ARC decisions being made based on incorrect information. While this approach could advance the process, it would not provide an opportunity for verification of information.

There was considerable discussion around the amount of time that should be spent on developing scenarios compared to the amount of time that should be spent on valuing each school. A member indicated that the valuation component was useful in allowing the members to familiarize themselves with the schools and with individual ARC member opinions. Overall, the group felt that more time should be given to developing scenarios earlier on in the process.

The Chair added to that by recognizing that once people have the knowledge they need, they can advance much quicker in the process.

A member acknowledged that the questions in the School Valuation Framework were useful however, assigning points to the individual components did not add anything to the process.

A member wanted more transparency with regards to the Ministry of Education's criteria for funding business cases. The member felt that this would be of added benefit to a future ARC.

Another member commented that despite the availability of the criteria, there is no guarantee of funding being available.

The Chair reminded the ARC that the Ministry would be considering funding requests from 72 school boards across the Province.

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The ARC Secretary added that the Ministry currently had \$2.2B in funding requests with only \$350M in available funding. Successful requests are based on how well the business cases are developed.

Members felt that group work was most beneficial to the overall process. They felt that this type of group interaction should begin much earlier in the process so that people get to know each other and begin to understand each other's concerns.

The ARC Chair indicated that while this would be advantageous, the Chair of any ARC would have to be conscious of the group dynamics to assess when would be the best time to foster group work. He added that successful group dynamics comes over time as the individuals become more familiar with each other.

Members agreed that the website for future ARCs should be more user friendly.

They suggested the following recommendations be included in the ARC Report to the Director of Education:

- a) An early step in the ARC process would be to have all members of the ARC to visit all identified schools

Motion to accept the above recommendation

Moved: Chris Montgomery (Parent Rep, Florence M. Heard)

Seconded: Lynda Darling (Teacher Rep, Leslie McFarlane)

Carried

- b) ARC to establish deadline dates for receipt of information.

Motion to accept the above recommendation

Moved: Angie Weiss (Parent Rep, Palmerston)

Seconded: Sharon Murdoch (Parent Rep, Florence M. Heard)

Carried

The ARC elected to consider recommendations c) and d) as set out in the January 21, 2009, minutes and collapse them into one recommendation.

- c) Reduce the amount of time spent on valuation framework and increase the time spent discussing the scenarios.

Motion to accept the above recommendation

Moved: Carol Bell (Teacher Rep, Jack Miner)

Seconded: Chris Montgomery (Parent Rep, Florence M. Heard)

Carried

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- d) Dedicate a working session to brainstorm multiple scenarios earlier in the ARC process.

Motion to accept the above recommendation

Moved: Sharon Murdoch (Parent Rep, Florence M. Heard)

Seconded: Angie Weiss (Parent Rep, Palmerston)

Carried

- e) The Ministry of Education provides criteria against which it would be evaluating ARC Business Case proposals

Motion to accept the above recommendation

Moved: Angie Weiss (Parent Rep, Palmerston)

Seconded: Chris Montgomery (Parent Rep, Florence M. Heard)

Carried

- f) Make the ARC website more user friendly to ease access to information

Motion to accept the above recommendation

Moved: Angie Weiss (Parent Rep, Palmerston)

Seconded: Jim Olson (Principal, Leslie McFarlane)

Carried

Next Steps

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, indicated that at the next meeting, on February 11, 2009, the ARC would be provided with a covering letter to the report for their review and approval.

The Chair introduced a spreadsheet comparing all 23 scenarios for the ARC's comments and approval.

David Visser, ARC Secretary, indicated that the development of this comparison was as a result of a request made at the last ARC working meeting of January 21, 2009. The intent is to include this as an appendix in the ARC's Report to the Director of Education.

A member suggested that the package should include the date on which each scenario was introduced to the ARC and the date on which the scenario was either approved or defeated by the ARC.

Another member suggested that the package include other considerations that supported the ARC's decisions to either approve or defeat the individual scenarios.

Motion to adopt the above suggestions

Moved: Steven Misner (Parent Rep, Pringle Creek)

Seconded: Jill MacCharles-Crain (Parent Rep, Pringle Creek)

Carried

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A member suggested that a summary of each scenario should be included as part of the scenario comparison summary.

David Visser, ARC Secretary, acknowledged that this point had merit. He stated that the proposed Appendix I, entitled 'Alternative Accommodation Options Considered' contains the summaries of each of the 23 scenarios. He suggested that the Scenario Comparison Summary would immediately follow Appendix I and, as such, would address the member's concern.

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, stated that next week's meeting will be the last time the ARC will convene. At that time, he remains hopeful that the ARC will provide final approval of the ARC's Report to the Director of Education.

Motion to adjourn the meeting:

Moved: Monica Porteous (Non-teaching Rep, Florence M. Heard)

Seconded: Sue Lunn (Principal, Pringle Creek)

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

The next meeting of the ARC will take place on Wednesday, February 11, 2009 at 3:00 in the Boardroom (Room 1017) at the Education Centre.

6LL MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2009 – Approved