

MINUTES OF ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC) Central Whitby MEETING

Wednesday, February 11, 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)
Linda Lyons (Parent 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)
Brigitte Sopher (Principal, Florence M. Heard)
Carol Bell (Teacher Rep, Jack Miner)
Trudy Collins (Principal, 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) – *not signed in*
Leilah McBride (Teacher 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)
Steven Misner (Parent Rep, Pringle Creek) – *not signed in*

Consultant: Daniel Del Bianco

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

Guest Speaker: Martyn Beckett, Director of Education

Regrets: Jill MacCharles-Crain (Teacher Rep, Pringle Creek)
Monica Porteous (Non-teaching Rep, Florence M. Heard)
Lygia Dallip, Facilitator

Absent: Gail Dyson (Non-teaching Rep, Jack Miner)
Jacquie Weber (Parent Rep, Jack Miner)

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Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, called the meeting to order. He welcomed the ARC members and requested that they sign in. He indicated that the Agenda had been sent out earlier today. Both the ARC Chair and ARC Secretary agreed to provide fifteen minutes at the beginning of the meeting for perusal of today's Agenda and information package.

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

Motion to accept the February 11, 2009, Agenda

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

Seconded: Marion Fulcher (Non-teaching Rep, Palmerston)

Carried

The Chair requested that the ARC review the Minutes of the ARC working meeting of February 4, 2009. These reflect comments made by the ARC members regarding the ARC draft Report to the Director. There were no comments resulting from the review of the Minutes.

Motion to accept the Minutes of February 4, 2009

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

Seconded: Sue Lunn (Principal, Pringle Creek)

Carried

Agenda Item # 4 Emails and Voicemails

Carey Trombino, Resource Staff, indicated there were no new emails or voicemails since the last ARC working group meeting of February 4, 2009.

David Visser, ARC Secretary, added that some email responses that had been sent out in December 2008 and January 2009, indicated that the ARC's Report would be presented to the Board of Trustees in February, 2009. He stated that a follow-up email, including the Notice of Public Meetings, would be issued to those persons that initially received the incorrect dates. The committee concurred with this correction.

Review and Approval of ARC Report to the Director

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, requested that the members review the final ARC Report to the Director for their approval and provide comments. He indicated that the highlighted areas were new additions since the last review by the ARC members. A summary of all scenarios based on criteria was included with the report.

The final ARC Report was amended to include the list of all Committee members.

A motion was made to include this page as part of the report.

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

Seconded: Angie Weiss (Parent Rep, Palmerston)

Carried

David Visser, ARC Secretary, stated that the ARC's Report to the Director will include all appendices stated in the report and would be bound.

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A member asked if Section 2.4 of the Report could be amended to include "inclement weather" as an explanation as to why there were only 44 signed-in participants at the Fourth Public Meeting.

Joe Hircock stated that inclement weather did not affect the day-time operation (schools open and busses operational) of the Board on that particular day and therefore should not be reflected in the report. The Committee concurred.

Another member stated that the weather had been reflected in the minutes of the ARC working meeting of February 4, 2009.

Motion to accept the ARC Report to the Director, dated February 13, 2009, with no further changes.

Moved: Steven Misner (Parent Rep, Pringle Creek)

Seconded: Leilah McBride (Teacher Rep, Palmerston)

Carried

Carey Trombino, ARC Resource Staff, commented that, the ARC's Website would be updated with the upcoming Public Meeting dates.

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, stated that March 2, 2009 would be a Standing Meeting, March 23, 2009, and May 26, 2009, would be Board Meetings. Continued information will be provided via media coverage.

A member requested clarification regarding the difference between Standing Meetings and Board Meetings and, what opportunities the public had to provide input.

Joe Hircock indicated that the public has an opportunity to make presentations at Standing Meetings, provided that standard board protocol is followed. At the March 2, 2009 Standing Committee Meeting, Trustees will receive the ARC Report and Staff Report for information purposes only. On March 23, 2009, the Trustees will accept both reports for consideration.

David Visser, ARC Secretary, indicated that the community is welcome to make presentations at any Standing Committee Meetings.

Review and Approval of ARC covering letter to the Director

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, requested that the group provide comments on the proposed covering letter to accompany the final ARC Report to the Director.

A member referred to the letter to remove the words "as a whole".

Motion made to remove the words as indicated above

Moved: Jim Olson (Principal, Leslie McFarlane)

Seconded: Lynda Darling (Teacher Rep, Leslie McFarlane)

Carried

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Joe thanked the Committee members for their dedicated work throughout the ARC Central Whitby process. He went on to thank the Resource Staff for providing the necessary information throughout the duration of the lengthy process.

Joe thanked Carey Trombino and Danielle Pépin for their endless hours of commitment. He then thanked Janet Edwards for her support and assistance.

He thanked David Visser for providing information regarding protocol and legislation. He thanked Watson & Associates for their guidance.

On behalf of the DDSB, Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, and, David Visser, ARC Secretary, presented each member of the committee with a letter of thanks and a certificate of recognition.

Martyn Beckett, Director of Education, addressed the group. He stated that this has been a very long process involving an enormous number of hours. He thanked the ARC and Resource Staff for their dedication and commitment throughout this lengthy consultative process and expressed his appreciation. He very much looks forward to receiving the ARC's Report in the near future, and, expects that full and fair consideration will be forthcoming from the Board of Trustees in their final decision.

David Visser, ARC Secretary, described the committee as an extremely hard working group. It is a large committee representing a number of different communities. He stated that Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, had performed a masterful task in keeping meetings on schedule and encouraging everyone to work together.

A member asked how the Staff report would differ from the ARC's recommendation and if they would receive an advanced copy.

David Visser, ARC Secretary, stated that the Staff Report is in the early stages of development and would still require input from a number of colleagues prior to being finalized. Consistent with standard Board practices, the Staff Report will not be made available prior to the Standing Committee Meeting. All ARC members will receive an electronic copy of the Staff Report the following day.

A member asked if the community would have the opportunity to make a presentation in defense of their school and, if the presentation could potentially influence the decision of the Board of Trustees.

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, stated that the standard Board process would have to be followed in order to make presentation to Trustees. The Trustees could potentially make an amendment to a recommendation if they so desired.

A member asked if the access to the information on the website would be available until May 26, 2009.

David Visser, ARC Secretary, indicated that all ARC information would remain on the Board's Website for a number of months following the final decision.

Next Steps

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, indicated that at the February 4, 2009, ARC working meeting, a member had suggested that a message be placed on the ARC website and voicemail thanking the community for their interest and participation in the ARC process and referring the community to the ARC's Report to the Director available on the ARC's website.

The Chair sought a motion from the ARC to initiate the above.

Moved: Lynda Darling (Teacher Rep, Leslie McFarlane)

Seconded: Carole McLeod (Teacher Rep, Capt. M. VandenBos)

Carried

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, reminded the members that once the ARC Report has been submitted to the Director of Education, it would be available to the community for public input at the March 2, 2009, the March 23, 2009, and the May 26, 2009, Public Meetings.

Acknowledgement of ARC members

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, and David Visser, ARC Secretary, thanked the committee members for their time, effort and dedication to the first DDSB ARC.

Motion to accept the minutes of the ARC Working Meeting of February 11, 2009

Moved: Trudy Collins (Principal, Jack Miner)

Seconded: Jim Olson (Principal, Leslie McFarlane)

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.