

## MINUTES OF ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC) Central Whitby MEETING

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Education Centre - Room 1017

### *In Attendance:*

Chair: Joe Hircock

Secretary: David Visser (Secretary)

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)  
 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)  
 Jacquie Weber (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)  
 Leilah McBride (Teacher 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)  
 Steve Misner (Parent Rep, Pringle Creek)

Facilitator: Lygia Dallip

Daniel Del Bianco (Consultant)

ARC Resource Staff: Anne Dobos  
 Janet Edwards  
 Danielle Pépin

Additions: John Fitzsimmons

Absent: Carey Trombino, ARC Resource Staff  
 Cathy Wade (Parent Rep, Jack Miner)

Public Observers: Joan Lambie, Schoolhouse

*Welcome*

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, thanked everyone for coming and called the meeting to order.

Motion to accept this meeting's Agenda:

Moved: Sharon Murdoch, Florence M. Heard

Seconded: Marion Fulcher, Palmerston

Carried

Motion to accept the Minutes of October 8, 2008

Moved: Joe Hamilton, Pringle Creek

Seconded: Lynda Darling, Leslie McFarlane

Carried

Anne Dobos, Resource Staff, addressed the most recent email responses (Tab 4h 1, page 5 & 6). Anne requested responses from the previous emails that had not been addressed on October 8 due to time spent on the valuation.

The group reviewed the emails. A member referred to the 4<sup>th</sup> question on page 5 regarding when notification of the registration for French Immersion students would be available. Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, clarified that junior kindergarten is not mandatory in Ontario. Parents with children in senior kindergarten would be advised of the availability of French Immersion that starts in grade one at the Durham District School Board.

David Visser, ARC Secretary, commented that all FI students in Whitby were taken into consideration regardless of where they live in Whitby and that this all forms part of the ARC Central Whitby review. Other options could be reviewed to relieve the French Immersion concerns.

A motion was made to accept the email responses as presented.

Moved: Sue Lunn (Principal, Pringle Creek)

Seconded: Kirsty Sinclair (Parent Rep, Leslie McFarlane)

Carried

Lygia Dallip, ARC Facilitator, addressed the issue of the completed School Valuation Framework. She suggested to the group that the use of inclusive language such as 'we' and 'us' should be removed from the comments made to ensure that the final document was representative of all of the ARC members. She indicated that the group should review the consolidated summary to ensure that all comments made were clear and understandable. She indicated that the ARC members needed to understand all comments made in the Valuation Framework, where comments were not understandable they should consider rewording or deleting said comments. Lygia Dallip, ARC Facilitator, also commented on the general comments that were included in some of the Valuations and indicated that the ARC needed to decide under which of the four values they would be placed.

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The Facilitator also indicated to the group that in reviewing the comments that they need to consider that the comments that appeared similar in nature should be retained for whether they should be consolidated into one comment.

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, reminded the members of the importance of remaining neutral as they assessed all ARC comments related to each of the six schools.

Each group considered the general comments and indicated whether or not those comments were already reflected under a specific value and therefore should be deleted or whether they should be inserted under a specific value.

The group then reviewed the comments made for each school and discussed whether or not these comments should be revised to ensure clarity, deleted since they were not relevant, or, remain as originally stated.

The group agreed that all references to inclusive language i.e., 'we', 'us', be removed.

### **Jack Miner PS**

#### Value to Student

1.7 Request to remove comment "forces into forested area"  
All were in agreement to remove the comment.

#### Value to Community

2.1 Request to remove the words 'assume that' and replace with 'the'  
All were in agreement to amend this comment.  
2.4 Request to remove comment regarding 'pollution'.  
All were in agreement to remove the comment.

### **Florence M Heard PS**

#### Value to Student

1.2 Request to remove the word 'little'.  
All were in agreement with the rewording of the phrase to be "Facility limits extra curricular activities"  
1.3 Request to replace 'Facilities not – Gym, Library with "Facility not adequate – Gym"  
All were in favour of the rewording.  
1.5 All were in agreement to change the comment "Very limited size of staff" to now read "Smaller staff due to smaller student population"  
1.5 All were in favour to remove the comment "Can't avoid splits in a low population school without subsidies which is not equitable"  
1.6 All were in agreement to change the comment "No special classes" to "No specialized classroom spaces"  
1.6 All were in agreement to change the comment "Unsafe to have students on three levels" to "Restrictions to accessibility due to 3 levels"

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1.7 All were in agreement to change the comment "No community connection (locally)" to "No community connection (locally) – partnership"  
1.7 All were in agreement to delete the comment "Fire safety seems poor".

1.7 All agreed to delete the words 'not safe' so that the comment now reads "Kindergartens need to walk far"

1.9 All were in agreement to delete the comment "Close to highway - safety issues".

#### Value to the Board

3.4 All were in agreement to combine the comments "Positive" and "Excessive" to now read "Operating cost is reasonable per pupil"

3.7 A vote was taken to change the comment "No" to now read "No - Presence of portables impact on green space"

#### Value to the Local Economy

4.1 All were in favour of deleting the comment "School detracts"

### **Palmerston Avenue PS**

#### Value to Student

1.1 Amended the comment "No enhanced learning" to read "No enhanced program".

All were in favour

1.2 All were in agreement to remove the comment "N/A"

1.4 All were in favour of changing the wording of "Difficult to buss students to site due to narrow lot" to " Limited ability to accommodate additional busing"

1.4.1 All agreed to add the figure of "8%"

1.5 All were in favour of changing the phrase "Limited teaching staff" to "Smaller staff due to smaller student population"

1.6 All were in agreement to delete the comments "Inadequate library" and "No music room".

1.6 All were in agreement to replace "No specialty rooms" with "Limited specialized rooms"

1.7 All were in favour of replacing the comment "Secretary and admin are apart – unsafe" with "Concern with office staff safety as offices are apart"

1.7.1 All were in agreement with including the word "Yes"

#### Value to Board

3.3 All were in agreement with changing the comment "Not accessible for disabled" to "Stage is not accessible"

3.4 Correction made to the number of students from 170 to 197.

### **Leslie McFarlane PS**

#### Value to Student

1.1 Change "No specialized program" to read "No enhanced program".

All were in favour of this change.

1.3 All agreed to delete the comment "Inadequate heating"

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1.5 All were in favour of rewording the comment "Very small staff – cannot offer specialized teaching programs" to now read "Very small staff – does offer specialized programs"

1.6 All agreed on deleting the comment "Small library"

1.7 A vote was taken for the following comment to remain "Busy road & forest difficult to supervise". The comment will remain as determined by a majority vote.

1.7 All were in favour of including the comment "School is accessible"

1.7.1 All were in agreement with deleting the comment "Kindergarten area not kid friendly and safe due to sight lines" and adding the comment "Yes"

#### Value to the Community

2.1 It was agreed that the word 'assume' would be removed from the comment to now read "Community groups use the large gym "

#### Value to the Board

3.9 All agreed with the deletion of the comment "Bus pick-up and drop off space poorly used".

#### Value to the Local Economy

4.1 It was agreed that the existing comment will remain as is "Impact on childcare"

### **Pringle Creek PS**

#### Value to the Student

1.1 All were in favour of deleting the comment "Parent decision"

1.4.1 All were in favour of replacing "All walk" with "4% bussed"

#### Value to the Board

3.1 All agreed to delete the comment "Enrolment is a problem and is declining"

### **Captain Michael VandenBos PS**

#### Value to the Student

1.1 All were in favour of changing "Regular track" to "Dual track"

1.3 All were in agreement to add the comment "Library – lots of books – French and English"

1.4 All were in favour of changing the comment "low access for gym" found under 1.9 to read "Limited access to gym due to overcrowding" and moved to Section 1.4

1.4.1 All agreed with the inclusion of "50%"

1.7.1 All were in favour of adding "Yes"

#### Value to the Board

3.7 All agreed that the comment should read "Limited green space due to number of portables"

The ARC agreed that with the amendments made, the completed Customized Valuation Framework could now be shared with the community for its consideration.

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#### **PowerPoint Presentations**

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, indicated that a key component of today's agenda was the presentation of PowerPoint slides for each group for peer feedback. He recognized that the meeting was running late and he invited the group to stay a little longer to review at least two of the six

presentations. This provided the group with an understanding of the content to be provided at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Meeting.

The first presentation was made by Palmerston Avenue PS. Upon completion of their presentation, the group provided feedback on their content. The conclusion to this presentation did not tie in the content of the overall presentation. Rather, it acted as a support for repairing Palmerston Avenue PS and keeping it open.

The ARC Chair requested that the Facilitator, respond to the question “Who will pay for repairs to Palmerston Avenue if it remains open?” The Facilitator responded that the Board would be responsible for the costs.

The Facilitator recommended to the group that the conclusions from all six schools will need to be tied back in to the school valuation finding that the ARC developed as a whole.

The ARC Chair indicated that the conclusion should be more factual than subjective.

The ARC members were reminded that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Meeting would be used to present their findings through the completion of the Customized School Valuation Framework for community input. These findings, and the community input, would provide the ARC with the knowledge necessary to develop accommodation options to present at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Public Meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

The second presentation was made by Florence M. Heard PS. Upon completion of their presentation, the group provided feedback on their content. The Facilitator indicated that the group remain conscious of the use of subjective language i.e. ‘valuable property’. What is meant by valuable? It was suggested that this word be removed from the presentation.

The group was asked to review their PowerPoint presentations over the next few days and to forward any changes to Danielle Pepin, ARC Resource Staff, by Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, at noon. Also, each group will need to provide Danielle Pepin with the name of the person(s) who will be making the presentation on behalf of each of the six schools. The names will be added to the agenda of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Meeting of November 5, 2008.

At the end of the meeting, the following ARC members came forward as being representative for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Meeting on November 5, 2008 to be held at Jack Miner PS.

Jack Miner PS – Jacquie Weber  
Leslie McFarlane PS – Scott Irwin  
Pringle Creek PS -- Steven Misner and Jill MacCharles-Crain

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The ARC agreed that all questions or comments received by the ARC would have a response. Where the person voicing the question or comment has identified themselves, a response would be made directly to them as well as posted on the ARC Website. Where a person has asked a question or expressed a concern or comment, but have not provided their contact information, an ARC response would be prepared and posted on the ARC Website. The response will now

include "Thank you for your concern. All ARC members from the six schools are on a voluntary basis."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

*Minutes ARC Working Meeting October 29, 2008*

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