

MINUTES OF ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC) Central Whitby MEETING

Wednesday, November 12, 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)
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)
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)
Steven Misner (Parent Rep, Pringle Creek)

Facilitator: Lygia Dallip

Consultant: Daniel Del Bianco

ARC Resource Staff: Carey Trombino, ARC Resource Staff

Anne Dobos

Janet Edwards

Danielle Pépin

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

Welcome

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

Motion to accept this meeting's Agenda:

Moved: Tim Ralph (Principal, Palmerston)

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

Carried

Motion to accept the Minutes of October 29, 2008

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

Seconded: Judy Whiteman (Non-teaching Rep, Leslie McFarlane)

Carried

Angie Weiss, (Parent Rep, Palmerston) requested an amendment to the minutes of the 2nd Public Meeting to include a web reference to the PowerPoint presentation that was presented at the Public Meeting.

Motion to accept the Minutes of the November 5, 2008 2nd Public Meeting with one amendment.

Moved: Sue Lunn (Principal, Pringle Creek)

Seconded: Leilah McBride (Teacher Rep, Palmerston)

Carried

Carey Trombino, ARC Resource Staff, spoke of the additions to the Comments/Feedback as well as the email responses.

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, sought feedback on the 2nd Public Meeting and thanked Trudy Collins, Principal, for making Pringle Creek PS available and for all the work involved.

A member from Pringle Creek PS felt the 2nd Public Meeting was more productive than the first. Another member from Pringle Creek commented and thanked F.M. Heard for their very good presentation.

With the assistance of two sketch boards, David Visser, ARC Secretary, presented two areas to keep in mind when developing alternative accommodation scenarios for the students in Central Whitby:

ARC PARAMETERS

- 3 PTR identified schools
- Captain Michael VandenBos – Portables
- Jack Miner Portables / Grass
- Pringle Creek – Capacity / Grass
- Board's Policy to reduce portables

MINISTRY

- Enrolment trends
- Analysis of entire business case
- Utilization of facility at 80% over 10 years
- ARC Process
- Non-split class sizes
- Bussing
- Use of facility
- 10 % of kids are in portables
- consider site size of addition

An ARC member from Florence M. Heard sought clarification regarding the definition of PTR and whether or not the option is available to repair a school that has been deemed to be Prohibitive To Repair.

David Visser, ARC Secretary, stated that although the Ministry gave the Board preliminary approval of the proposed project, final approval has not been given. The Business Case submitted to the Ministry required the establishment of an ARC and community consultation prior to the project proceeding.

He went on to say that the Board is examining its capital funding needs and that another business case is currently before the Ministry to address a number of issues but all illustrating how they meet the Ministry's criteria. He reminded the group that the Board cannot dictate to the ARC what it can or cannot do. The Ministry had, in 2003, deemed the three schools in the ARC Central Whitby to be PTR which would indicate that it would make more sense to rebuild than to repair. As a result, the Ministry looks at the whole business case and not sections thereof.

An ARC member from Palmerston revisited the comment made at the 2nd Public Meeting regarding the possibility of 'grandfathering' the Gifted program.

David Visser, ARC Secretary, replied that, at most, only one grade would be permitted to be 'grandfathered'. The ARC members were asked to keep in mind that it takes two years to build a school.

An ARC member asked if there was a budget to be followed.

David Visser, ARC Secretary, stated that the budget was presented in the Board's first scenario. It was suggested that the emphasis be placed on presenting a strong case rather than concentrating on the financial aspect. Additional funds could be requested of the Ministry at a future date.

A member asked the question of how many students are required in order to hold a Gifted program in any given school. Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, replied that 125 students are required.

David Visser, ARC Secretary, reviewed the descriptors and spreadsheets of all three Board scenarios as provided to each ARC member. He indicated that the scenarios developed by the Board formed part of the policy requirements. He reviewed the Business Case scenario that was available on the Board's website and indicated that two additional scenarios numbered 14b and 14c were being made available for the ARC's consideration. He explained the significance of the construction cost and excess capacity areas of the spreadsheet.

Comments were sought following the explanation of the scenarios.

A Florence M. Heard member stated that there clearly are not enough classrooms for students.

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, invited the group to explore the scenarios over the next 40 minutes and develop additional scenarios of their own to be presented closer to the end of the day's meeting. All scenarios would need to be based upon the parameters and Ministry guidelines as explained by David Visser, ARC Secretary. The group was welcome to extract parts of all three scenarios
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in order to establish a new solution of their own. He indicated that the ARC resource staff would circulate amongst the groups and be available to answer any questions they may have.

There was much discussion regarding boundaries, bussing, French Immersion and Gifted programs. One ARC member asked if blending two schools with shared community areas i.e., gymnasium, library, was a possibility.

David Visser, ARC Secretary, described the Board's existing multi-use secondary school and the complexities involved.

Following the break-out sessions of the six groups, Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, requested that each school group, in no particular order, present their best potential solution based on the three scenarios before them.

FLORENCE M. HEARD PS - Scenario

- Construct a 4 or 6-classroom addition at Pringle Creek Public School
- Close Leslie McFarlane Public School and move the students to Pringle Creek PS (265 + 253 = **518**; 389 after 10 years)
- Rebuild a 605 Pupil Place elementary school on the existing Leslie McFarlane PS site *
 - Close Florence M. Heard PS, which is single track FI school and move the students to the new elementary school constructed on the Leslie McFarlane PS site (296).
 - Relocate the FI students residing south of Taunton and who are bussed to Captain Michael VandenBos to the new elementary school constructed on the Leslie McFarlane Public School site. (261) (296 + 261 = **557**; 729 after 10 years) –
Note that the new unnamed Whitby Shores school could host 100 students + living south of Highway 2 and who are presently attending F. M. Heard PS if it became a dual track school
- Rebuild a new school on the existing Palmerston Avenue PS site
 - Keep the Palmerston Avenue PS students in the new school (177)
 - Relocate the Gifted program from Jack Miner PS to the new school on the existing Palmerston Avenue PS site (177 + 237 = **414**; 443 after 10 years)
- Jack Miner PS keeps its regular program (**401**; 335 after 10 years)
- Captain VandenBos PS keeps its regular program (200) and its FI walking students (240) (200 + 240 = **440**; 491 after 10 years)
- * **Consideration to be given to an alternative location on the site of F.M. Heard P.S.**

F.M Heard Site - *Pros*: More visible to community

Access could remain off Mary St. - not a main road like Garden St.

Cons: Rebuild is logistically more difficult while still serving students on site

Leslie McFarlane Site - *Pros*: Property would be vacant making rebuild easier

Cons: access to property is off Garden St., a main 4-lane road used by commuters:

To access Hwy. 401 and Go station

Property backs onto train tracks

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Property is surrounded on 3 sides by forest resulting in supervision concern

JACK MINER PS - Scenario

Leslie McFarlane PS students move to Pringle Creek PS
New single track FI school construction on site for 295 students currently at FM Heard PS and,
261 FI students currently bussed to Captain Michael VandenBos PS

Close Florence M. Heard PS

Build a 10-room addition and retain the 401 regular stream walking students and the 273 Gifted students at Jack Miner PS

Build a 4-room addition for dual track FI/English program at Captain Michael VandenBos PS
Include 177 Palmerston Avenue PS students
Retain 240 FI students within walking distance
Retain 200 English stream students

Close Palmerston Avenue PS for September 2009 – start one class of Gifted at a second school at grade 4 or 5 level

For September 2010 – Possibly add 2 classes at same site, grade 4 or 5 and add a class each year as required.

Retain 265 current walking distance students and add 253 English stream students from Leslie McFarlane PS.

LESLIE MCFARLANE PS - Scenario

Rebuild Palmerston Avenue; Palmerston = 177, Gifted = 237 --- total 414 Dual track

Rebuild Leslie McFarlane PS; 253 + Florence M. Heard PS 296 = 549 Dual track

Captain Michael VandenBos PS– English & FI = total 440 Dual track

Jack Miner PS = 401 Single track

Pringle Creek PS 265 + 261 bussed Captain Michael VandenBos PS FI = 526

This would mean no portables.

All schools have room to expand

Leslie McFarlane PS students stay together. Florence M. Heard PS knows the McFarlane site well due to using the gym.

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PALMERSTON AVENUE PS - Scenario

Palmerston Avenue PS:

Rebuild as Dual track for Regular students and Gifted Jack Miner students (will require bussing)
Bussed students from Leslie McFarlane PS move to Palmerston Avenue PS

Leslie McFarlane PS:

Rebuild as Dual track for Regular track and FI
Takes all F.M. Heard PS students
Takes bussed FI students from Captain Michael VandenBos PS
Amendment: Lynde Shores to become dual track for regular and FI. Takes some of the FI children. If not a viable option, addition to Pringle Creek PS

Florence M. Heard PS: Close. FI children move to Leslie McFarlane PS

Jack Miner PS:
Remove portables, become single track, remains home for Jack Miner PS.

Captain Michael VandenBos PS:
Remove portables
Dual track for Regular and FI walking students

Pringle Creek PS:
Remain as is unless an addition is required. Single track.

PRINGLE CREEK PS - Scenario

Build 8-classroom addition to Pringle Creek PS

Close Leslie McFarlane PS and move students to Pringle Creek PS

Relocate 125 Gifted students from Jack Miner PS to Pringle Creek PS and cap the program at that location.

Retain the balance of the Gifted at Jack Miner PS

Rebuild a new 605 pupil school on existing Leslie McFarlane PS site to house single-track FI
- Close F.M. Heard PS and move students to new school
- Relocate the FI bussed students south of Taunton attending Captain Michael VandenBos PS to new school

Retain the FI walking distance students currently at Captain Michael VandenBos PS

Close Palmerston Avenue PS and move students to Captain Michael VandenBos PS

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Following the presentations of the scenarios, Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, requested that all six suggested scenarios be forwarded in writing to Danielle Pépin, ARC Resource Staff, by noon on Thursday, November 13, 2008. ARC Resource Staff will have all 6 variations prepared for review at the next ARC working meeting, Wednesday, November 19, 2008.

Lygia Dallip, ARC Facilitator, informed the group that they will be asked to prioritize their scenarios for presentation at the next Public Meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 2008, with the intent of narrowing down their scenarios to be taken to the Trustees.

6 v Minutes ARC Working Meeting November 12, 2008 – Approved



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