

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

Wednesday, October 8, 2008  
1:00 – 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)  
Cathy Wade (Parent 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

ARC Resource Staff: Carey Trombino  
Anne Dobos  
Janet Edwards  
Danielle Pépin

Additions: Lynda Smith

Absent: Daniel Del Bianco (Consultant)

Public Observers: Kathleen Butt, Palmerston PS (not signed in)  
Kevin King, Palmerston PS (signed in)

## ***Minutes of ARC Central Whitby Meeting, October 8, 2008, Pg 2***

### *Welcome*

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, thanked everyone for coming.

The meeting, based on the agenda presented, was called to order by Lynda Darling

Motion to accept the Minutes of September 17, 2008

Moved: Monica Porteous, Florence M. Heard

Seconded: Tim Ralph, Palmerston

Carried

Danielle Pepin, ARC Resource Staff, spoke to the name change of the Minutes of September 10, 2008.

Moved to accept as amended: Judy Whiteman, Leslie McFarlane

Seconded: Jim Olson, Leslie McFarlane

Carried

The ARC Chair asked members to consider the minutes of the first Public Meeting that took place on September 30, 2008 at Pringle Creek PS and to provide feedback on the meeting and the approach taken.

A member suggested that the Board consider providing childcare on site for those wishing to attend the public meetings.

Another member suggested that when information is sent home regarding public meetings, it should explain how the findings from the previous meetings apply to the current meeting.

David Visser, ARC Secretary, indicated that in the notice of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Meeting, information would be added to address this issue.

A member indicated that the allotted time for questions and answers at the 1<sup>st</sup> Public Meeting was appreciated by the community because they felt they had ample time to express their views.

A member expressed her discomfort with the ARC being seated separately from the community to hear the negative and positive comments from the audience.

The Chair of the ARC indicated that, as representatives of their local communities, one of their tasks would be to listen to the information being provided by the community while separating themselves from the emotional aspect of the review.

Another opinion expressed was that ARC representatives from the individual school communities participate in the Public Meetings to let the community as a whole know that they, as parents, understand how the process affects the communities and the individuals involved.

The Committee then turned their attention to reviewing the Minutes of September 30, 2008 1<sup>st</sup> Public Meeting:

### ***Minutes of ARC Central Whitby Meeting, October 8, 2008, Pg 3***

It was indicated that the question from Mrs. Denise Chow from Captain Michael VandenBos was not reflected in the minutes –that being said, the question was regarding how often the attendance boundaries would change since this creates uncertainty and fractures school relationships.

It was noted that the question was in the September 30, 2008 Minutes but not attributed to a particular person.

A correction to the spelling of Lina Hatzes' last name was requested (see page 8 of Minutes of September 30<sup>th</sup> 1st Public Meeting).

The reference on page 9 to a Grade 8 Leslie McFarlane student who asked a question should be in bold.

It was suggested that the Minutes of September 30, 2008, 1<sup>st</sup> Public Meeting be accepted with the suggested changes.

Motion to accept the September 30, 2008 Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Public Meeting that reflect the suggested changes:

Moved: Kristy Sinclair, Leslie McFarlane

Seconded: Sue Collins, Jack Miner

Carried

The Chair then referred to Agenda item #4 "Are there changes to the Customized School Valuation Framework (Framework)"?

It was indicated that the community at the 1<sup>st</sup> Public Meeting made three recommendations to be included in the Customized School Valuation Framework. The members considered each recommendation and suggested a motion to be voted on.

1. What about job losses for child care workers?

Members expressed concern as to how this could be assessed if it were to be included in the Framework.

A motion was made to not include the question "What about job losses for child care workers" in the Framework.

Moved: Angie Weiss, Palmerston PS

Seconded: Linda Darling, Leslie McFarlane

Carried

2. "What percentage of students would like to have enhanced programs?"

A discussion ensued as to whether or not this was already captured under section 1.1.1.

Concern was also expressed about how such a value could be assessed currently and in future years.

***Minutes of ARC Central Whitby Meeting, October 8, 2008, Pg 4***

David Visser, ARC Secretary referred the members to Page 4 of the September 30, 2008 Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Public Meeting where Mr. Francesco Riondino raised the concern about accessibility for French Immersion programs.

Members commented that enhanced programs such as French Immersion and Gifted are accessible to all students based on parental choice and, in the case of Gifted, based on specific criteria.

A Motion was made to not accept the question "What percentage of students would like to have enhanced programs?"

Moved: Sharon Murdock, FM Heard PS

Seconded: Leilah McBride, Palmerston PS

Carried

3. "What social and emotional structures are in place?"

David Visser, ARC Secretary referred the members to page 5 of the September 30, 2008 Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Public Meeting where Ms. Wolf requested that a sub-point be added to the framework.

A member commented that such an assessment at this point in the process was premature. Such an assessment could not be made until students are moved. No such decision has been made.

The Chair of the ARC commented that the Board has processes in place to address the uncertainties that come with students moving from one school to another. He further added that Board staff are sensitive to this issue.

A Motion was made to not include the sub-point "What social and emotional structures are in place?"

Moved: Sharon Murdock, F. M Heard PS

Seconded: Steve Misner, Pringle Creek PS

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, then thanked the resource staff for their continued work and support and thanked Lygia Dallip, Facilitator for her guidance.

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair, indicated that the members, for the duration of this meeting, would be valuing each of the schools in the following manner:

Step One:

- Their home school would be valued individually by the members of the school group
- Upon completion, they would work with a partner in their group to consolidate the two valuations
- They would then come together as a table to consolidate the findings into one valuation for their own school

***Minutes of ARC Central Whitby Meeting, October 8, 2008, Pg 5***

Step Two:

- The group would value each of the other 5 schools under the review

The ARC Chair indicated that each valuation should ascribe points to each individual section of the Framework for each school valued. He recommended that as individuals valued the schools, they start their assessment based on the importance of the value to the individual.

The Secretary indicated that comments included in each of the valuations would aid in the understanding of the value of the school to the group as a whole.

The Chair indicated that they had approximately 45 minutes to complete the valuation of their own school with the remainder of the time being used to value the other 5 schools.

Part way through the process, the Chair requested that the groups summarize their experience at their table with respect to valuing the schools. Their comments were as follows:

Leslie McFarlane:

- Great process, opportunity to think about the human and emotional aspects of the process. They used the data provided to assess the buildings and concluded that all of the schools under review have their strengths.
- Difficult to assign points to the individual values.
- Did their best to remain fair.

Captain Michael VandenBos:

- Difficult process to review all the schools as they were more familiar with some than others.
- Understood that they needed to look at what is in the best interest of the students. They reviewed numbers regarding growth and repairs.
- They recognize that each school has their strengths and weaknesses.
- They indicated that they had completed all of the review and were comparing their findings for each of the schools to determine if revisions were needed.

Pringle Creek:

- An emotional process given the fact that three schools are under review for closure while three schools are under review for program changes.
- Look at cost efficiency and effectiveness and what is in the best interest of the students.
- Revisited some issues, i.e., safety and size of schools as they assigned points.

Jack Miner:

- They had no difficulty reaching consensus as they valued the schools.
- Utilized PTR numbers contained in the binders.
- Maintained the best interest of the students.

### ***Minutes of ARC Central Whitby Meeting, October 8, 2008, Pg 6***

FM Heard:

- Considered the same points raised by the other schools and also recognized that this is an emotional process.
- Responses to the points in the Framework were helpful in focusing on the values contained in the Framework.
- They found it difficult to assign points.

Palmerston:

- They found it difficult to assign points.
- Lengthy process to value the schools.

The Chair indicated that since some groups had completed the process while other still required more time. He then moved to Agenda Item #9 'Next Steps' in which he explained that a representative of each group would make a short presentation at the next Public Meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup> in which they would provide a few key points regarding their individual schools based on the consolidated valuation completed by the ARC.

The Chair indicated that the ARC resource staff would assist in the consolidation with the work done today and provide each group with a consolidated electronic copy of the valuation for each school by October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008, as well as an electronic version of the PowerPoint presentation template for their use.

Lygia Dallip, Facilitator, explained that the groups would have the opportunity, between October 20<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008, to develop the short presentation. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, at the next ARC working meeting, the representative chosen by the group would share their presentation with the members of the ARC who would be able to provide comments on their presentation contents and style.

ARC Resource Staff will consolidate the six individual presentations into one PowerPoint package for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Meeting, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at Jack Miner PS.

One member wondered whether or not they would have to respond to questions asked at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Meeting. The Chair responded that if the presenter felt comfortable answering the question, they could do so, however, the Secretary and Chair of the ARC would always be there to respond to the questions if needed.

David Visser, ARC Secretary, indicated that there are liability issues for the Board with respect to childcare at the Public Meetings. The ARC was requested to consider this concern and revisit the issue at the next ARC working meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

A member raised the issue of protests at Public Meetings, i.e., signs, and requested that the audience be reminded that they are on neutral ground and demonstrate respect for all communities.

### ***Minutes of ARC Central Whitby Meeting, October 8, 2008, Pg 7***

Lygia Dallip, Facilitator, referred the members to Agenda Item #5 'Review and approval of ARC email and telephone messages/responses'. She indicated that this was not addressed in order to provide ample time for the work completed today. This item is being deferred to the October 29<sup>th</sup> ARC working meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

*Minutes ARC Working Meeting October 8, 2008 – AS APPROVED AT OCTOBER 29, 2008 ARC MEETING*