



PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW – CENTRAL WHITBY

Board of Trustee's Meeting - March 2, 2009

Education Centre

400 Taunton Road East, Whitby, Ontario

Purpose of the ARC

- To review school accommodation to develop an integrated accommodation solution for Central Whitby in accordance with the Durham District School Board's Consolidation and Closure Policy #7113 and its Procedure #7113 regarding Pupil Accommodation Review.
- Review of six schools:
 - Captain Micheal VandenBos PS
 - Florence M. Heard PS
 - Jack Miner PS
 - Leslie McFarlane PS
 - Palmerston Avenue PS
 - Pringle Creek PS
- The ARC Process for the Board was established in accordance with Ministry of Education guidelines that requires the ARC to assess the issues and make recommendations to the Board.

ARC Mandate – Central Whitby

- The Mandate of the ARC is to value each school, develop scenarios to improve the education opportunities for the students in Central Whitby as well as to examine scenarios already developed by the Board and make recommendations on the accommodation of the students in the schools under review to the Director of Education

A Dual Stage Process – Phase One

- Establish Accommodation Review Committee
- Hold Working Meetings & Public Meetings
- Review, Consider and Decide upon solution in the best interest of the students
- Present ARC Report to the Director of Education (February 13, 2009)

A Dual Stage Process – Phase Two

- Staff Report is provided from the Director of Education
- Director presents ARC Report and Board Staff Report to Board of Trustees (March 2, 2009)
- Community provides Trustees with input
- Trustees consider the ARC Report, Staff Report, and, community input
- Trustees make a decision on the Accommodation needs in Central Whitby at a Special Board Meeting (May 26, 2009)

Why Two Phases?

- Phase One provides an opportunity for community to consider many solutions in preparation for presentation to the Board of Trustees
 - Ministry Guidelines require input/feedback between Community Members
 - Legal interpretation – allow this phase to transpire without Trustees engaging directly
- Phase Two provides an opportunity for Trustees to consider the community input prior to making a final decision
- Trustees' deliberation will decide the final outcome of the process in Phase Two. The Board has discouraged individual Trustee participation in Stage One.

Findings of the ARC and Staff

- The 2008-09 Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) Pupil Accommodation Review – Central Whitby, June 25, 2008 To February 13, 2009 report with recommendations reflects the ARC's work and provides a proposed solution to the accommodation needs of the students in Central Whitby.
- The ARC believes this report best addresses the interests of the students.
- The 2008-09 Pupil Accommodation Review – Central Whitby – Staff Report reflects the Staff's support of the ARC's solution and provides a staff-based analysis of the recommendations.

Details of Phase One - Public Meetings

- The ARC was required to consult with the community through a series of 4 Public Meetings to provide the community with opportunities for input into the Accommodation Review that was undertaken by the ARC.

- 1st Public Meeting - Tuesday, September 30, 2008
 - ARC sought community input on the customization of the Standard School Valuation Framework.

- 2nd Public Meeting – Wednesday, November 5, 2008
 - ARC sought community input on the valuation of each of the 6 schools through presentation of ARC findings.

- 3rd Public Meeting – Wednesday, December 10, 2008
 - ARC sought community input on proposed accommodation scenarios that reflected the best interest of the students.

- 4th Public Meeting – Wednesday, January 28, 2009
 - ARC sought community input on Draft Report and Recommendations prepared for Submission to the Director of Education of the DDSB.

Phase One - Timelines of the ARC

- At the May 20, 2008 Board Meeting, Trustees approved the commencement of the ARC.
- ARC met in June 2008 to receive an information binder.
- Series of Meetings September 2008 to February 2009:
 - 14 ARC Committee Meetings
 - 4 Public Meetings
- **The Final Decision:**
 - ARC considered community input from the fourth Public Meeting and prepared its final report and recommendations sent to the Director of Education for the Durham District School Board in February of 2009.
 - Board Staff reviewed the ARC report and developed a Board Staff report that considered the Committee's report.
 - Both reports ➤ forwarded to the Board in March 2009.
 - Board Trustees receive the ARC report and Board Staff Report for information only.
- 60 days later, in May 2009, Trustees will decide on the outcome.

Phase One – Community Keeping Informed

- 4 Public Meetings
- 14 ARC Committee Meetings at which the Public could attend and observe
- Information posted on the Website:
 - Board Reports, Minutes, ARC Requested Material,...
- FAQ – updated on the Website:
 - www.durham.edu.on.ca
- Email address and voicemail were established for ARC
 - arccentralwhitby@durham.edu.on.ca
 - (905) 666-8080, ext. 5280

Phase One - ARC Steps in the Process

- The ARC members met on June 25, 2008 to receive an Information Binder
- The ARC members met on several occasions in September and October, 2008
 - Reviewed Material, Requested Information from the Board, Prepared a Draft Customized School Valuation Framework
- On September 16th, 2008 – Toured all six schools under review in Central Whitby
- In October, 2008, the ARC valued each school using the Customized School Valuation Framework
 - Prepared Individual Draft School-Specific Valuation PowerPoint Presentations for Community Input
- In November and December, 2008, the ARC developed and/or considered 12 accommodation scenarios and determined that 2 scenarios (Scenario 1 and Scenario 2) should go forward for community feedback.

Phase One - ARC Progress to Date

- In January, 2009, the ARC considered community feedback from its 3rd Public Meeting as it developed its Draft Report and Recommendations on the accommodation needs of the students in Central Whitby.
- The ARC considered 10 additional scenarios that resulted from community feedback through the 3rd Public Meeting and subsequent emails.
- The ARC applied to these 10 scenarios, the same criteria it used to assess Scenario 1 and Scenario 2.
- In total the ARC considered 23 scenarios which it assessed against the criteria developed and determined that only one proposed solution should be recommended to the Board for consideration.
- The ARC considered community feedback from the 4th Public Meeting held on January 28, 2009
- On February 13, 2008, the ARC's Report entitled "2008-09 Accommodation Review Committee Pupil Accommodation Review – Central Whitby, June 25, 2008 to February 13, 2009" was presented to the Director of Education.
- On March 2, 2009 – The ARC Report and the Board Staff Report are presented to the Board of Trustees for information purposes. No decision will be made until May 26, 2009.

Phase One – Evaluation Criteria

- a. Acceptable by Ministry of Education for approximately 10% of students at existing schools to be in portables due to demographic fluctuations. This implies that 110% utilization of existing facilities is acceptable;
 - At the individual school
 - At all existing schools within the scenario
- b. Enrolment trends – Decline or Growth
 - Declining enrolment at a school may lead to split grades being introduced
 - At the Provincial level it is recognized that elementary enrolments are predominantly on the decline
 - As a result of the above, there is a heightened awareness to avoid overbuilding
- c. Ministry requirement for use of newly constructed facilities at a minimum of 80% utilization or greater over 10 years
- d. Enhancement of programs through updated facilities (i.e., gym, library)
- e. Ratio of green space (grass area) to buildings

Phase One – ARC Considerations

- a. 3 schools previously identified as Prohibitive-To-Repair
 - i. Significant repair needs
 - ii. Lack of enhanced program spaces
 - iii. Accessibility issues
- b. Site size – ability to accommodate an addition/new school
- c. Incremental changes to the bussing of students
- d. Strong, logical Business Case – in its entirety
- e. Fiscal responsibility, especially in financially difficult times
- f. ARC Process

Phase One –

ARC Recommendation-Scenario 1

- **Build a 10-classroom addition at Pringle Creek PS**
 - Close Leslie McFarlane PS and move students to Pringle Creek PS
 - Relocate part of the Jack Miner PS Gifted Program to Pringle Creek PS
- **Rebuild a new 605 pupil place elementary school on the Leslie McFarlane site**
 - Close Florence M. Heard PS and move the FI Program to the new school
 - Relocate the FI students from Captain Michael VandenBos PS living south of Taunton Road and outside of the existing Captain Michael VandenBos PS walking distance to the new school on the Leslie McFarlane site
- **Build a 4-classroom addition at Captain Michael VandenBos PS**
 - Close Palmerston Avenue PS and move students to Captain Michael VandenBos PS
 - Retain FI Program at Captain Michael VandenBos PS for students within walking distance and retain the Regular English-track program
- **Continue to operate Jack Miner PS as a dual track school with a smaller Gifted Program**

Phase One – Scenario 1 Compared to Criteria

- a. Acceptability by Ministry of approximately 10% of students in portables due to demographic fluctuations
 - Portables at Pringle Creek PS, but declining over the years
 - Avg. Scenario Utilization at 112% over 10 years
- b. Enrolment trends – Decline or Growth
 - High possibility of straight grade offering vs. split grades
- c. Ministry requirement for use of newly-constructed facility at 80% utilization or greater over 10 years
 - Avg. Utilization is 109% over 10 years for the new school
 - New school to open with no portables (5 portables projected in 10 years)
- d. Enhancement of program through updated facilities (i.e., gym, library)
 - Available through rebuild of facilities/transfer of students to newer facilities
- e. Ratio of green space (grass area) to buildings
 - Portable reduction at Captain Michael VandenBos PS and Jack Miner PS
- f. The approximate cost of this scenario is \$17.0M

Phase One – Scenario 1

ARC Conclusion Based on Criteria

- Three existing schools operating at 106%, 108%, and, 126% utilization respectively over 10 years
 - Preferable to be at 110% utilization - an acceptable standard
- The number of classes per grade are acceptable except for the split Gifted program, however, availability of Gifted program at two locations enhances program accessibility and could therefore result in increased enrolments beyond projections
- New school operating at 109% utilization over 10 years
- Students located in new, or relatively new, schools
 - Portable reduction at existing and new schools
 - First year of scenario number of students bussed is approximately 925
 - Fiscally responsible scenario

Phase One – Staff Report

- **Staff Reviewed the ARC Report**
- **Provided Further Analysis on**
 - Final Two Scenarios
 - Financial Considerations
 - Scenario One Timelines
- **Overall, Staff concur with the review and recommendations of the ARC**
 - Recommendations reflect the significant amount of work accomplished by 29 Committee Members
 - As well, DDSB Staff (Superintendents, Principals, Senior Planners and other Staff) have reviewed the information

Phase Two - Begins Tonight

- The responsibility of the decision for the Durham District School Board rests with the Board of Trustees
 - Trustees will consider
 - ARC Report
 - Staff Report
 - Community Input
- Decision is to be made on May 26, 2009 by the Board of Trustees.

Questions and Answers

- **For Trustees**