



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW – CORNWALL AREA ARC PUBLIC MEETING # 1 MINUTES Wednesday, November 30th, 2016, 6:30pm St. Joseph CSS, Cornwall, Cafeteria

Chair:

John Cameron, Superintendent of School Effectiveness

ARC Members in attendance:

Rachel Cousineau-Labelle, Bishop Macdonell	Kim Megenhardt, St. Anne
Tracey Masterson, Bishop Macdonell	Brittnee Starblanket, St. Anne
Renee Rozon, Holy Trinity CSS	Dan Curtis, St. Columban
Alanna Pollard, Holy Trinity CSS	Ashley Bergeron, St. Columban
Cathy Leslie, Holy Trinity CSS	Meghan Henry, St. Columban
MacLean Poulin, Holy Trinity CSS	Louise Tait, St. Columban
Beverley Bellefeuille, Immaculate Conception	Rob Dupuis, St. Joseph CSS
Ellie Fuller, Immaculate Conception	Danny Conway, St. Joseph CSS
Janice Flood, Immaculate Conception	Heather Stang, St. Joseph CSS
Shannon McDougald, Sacred Heart	Rob Lauzon, St. Matthew CSS
Michelle Brasseur-Robillard, St. Anne	Joy Martel, St. Matthew CSS
Patricia Dennison, St. Peter	Dawn Wheeler, St. Peter

Resource Staff:

Bonnie Norton, Superintendent of Business, CDSBEO
Jack Ammendolia, C.N. Watson Economists

Members of the Press:

Lois Ann Baker, Standard-Freeholder
Bill Kingston, Cornwall Newswatch

Recorder:

Karen O'Shaughnessy, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent John Cameron

Call to Order:

John Cameron, Chair of the Pupil Accommodation Review – Cornwall Area ARC Committee, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Prayer
Superintendent Cameron began the meeting with a prayer.

2. Opening Remarks

Superintendent Cameron welcomed the group assembled and went over the agenda for the evening. We will begin with a PowerPoint presentation to highlight some information concerning the ARC process, enrolment information as well as going over the Options presented in the Initial Staff Report. Mr. Cameron reminded those gathered that the options presented in the Initial Staff Report are just that, and the final recommendations may look totally different than what is presented in the report based on the feedback received by the ARC committee, through the ongoing ARC meetings and the public meetings.

Following the presentation tonight, you will notice that we have representatives from all of the Board's departments here positioned at tables around the perimeter of the room. They are here to answer your questions and gather your feedback. We invite you to go around the room and ask any questions you may have. A comment box is also available if you prefer that option. Superintendent Cameron reminded those assembled that all of the information concerning the Cornwall ARC is posted on the board website www.cdsbeo.on.ca.

Members of the ARC Committee in attendance were asked to stand and be recognized. Mr. Cameron introduced Mr. Jack Ammendolia, Consultant from C.N. Watson Economists. Mr. Ammendolia has been involved in the school board planning and has studied school age demographics for approximately 15 years. Jack has worked with CDSBEO for the past 15 years on various occasions concerning enrolment projections and capital plans. As well, the C.N. Watson firm also works closely with the City of the Cornwall and their planning needs. Mr. Ammendolia will now continue with the presentation this evening.

Mr. Ammendolia proceeded to make a PowerPoint presentation.

3. Public Questions

Question: A member of the audience asked if the board knew the cost of building new schools.

Response: Mr. Ammendolia stated that new construction is based on Ministry of Education benchmarks. The total cost of a facility can change based on many variables.

Question: A member of the audience asked if the cost of a new school has to be included in the estimate of school renewal costs and/or savings.

Response: Mr. Ammendolia responded that the cost of new construction is considered in terms of what renewal savings would be realized and construction cost would be requested of the Ministry of Education through a Business Case submission.

Question: A member of the audience asked why there are school boundaries.

Response: Mr. Ammendolia explained that school boundaries are very important in planning both for the enrolment and capacity of the school, without it the board would not be able to project future enrolment or future capacity needs at a school.

Superintendent Cameron then directed members of the board staff to proceed to their tables and invited the public to come forth and ask questions of each department assembled.

4. Questions Directed to Department Tables

A. ARC Chair, Superintendent of School Effectiveness, John Cameron, Superintendent of Business, Bonnie Norton and Consultant, C.N. Watson & Associates, Jack Ammendolia)

Question: What are the transition plans if the recommendations move forward?

Response: Once the Board makes a final decision regarding the Pupil Accommodation Review for Cornwall, planned for May 2017, at that time a Transition Committee will be formed. The main goal will be to keep the public informed.

Question: What are the timelines?

Response: The Board still has to complete the Pupil Accommodation Review process to arrive at recommendations to present to the Board of Trustees. There will be a 2nd Public Meeting on February 15, 2017 to gather additional feedback. There is also an opportunity for Public Delegations to the Board of Trustees in April 2017. Following a decision of the Board of Trustees in May 2017, the board will submit a Business Case to seek funding with the Ministry of Education.

B. Religious and Family Life Education Department (Principal of Religious Education, Paul Mantha and Religious Education Consultant, Cindy Morgan)

Question: With the students from St. Columban's moving to Sacred Heart, which parish will they be attending?

Response: The students of St. Columban's would now be attending Blessed Sacrament Parish as the present location or proposed location would be closer to this parish.

C. Special Education Department (Superintendent Donaleen Hawes and Principal of Special Education, Paula Perrault)

Question: Will the class sizes increase in the MEP/SC classes?

Response: No, the Ministry has set a limit of 16 per class.

Question: Will the Bishop Assistive Technology and Living and Learning Classes move to one of the secondary schools?

Response: It is possible but has not been considered at this time.

Question: Under the new proposed plan, would the students go to either St. Joseph CSS or Holy Trinity CSS for grades 7 & 8 then move to St. Matthew CSS for 9-12 where appropriate? Could St. Matthew CSS be a 7-12 school?

Response: The extra transition could be difficult. At this time, a decision has not been made.

Question: Principal raised concerns that transition from St. Joseph CSS back to St. Matthew in grade 9 causes a reduction in self-esteem and makes students feel they're forced to leave.

Response: Having them start in grade 7 builds the sense of community and success. It will be reviewed.

D. Human Resources (Manager of Human Resources, Nicole Proulx and Coordinator of Teaching, Marg Darling)

Question: If a teacher works .50 in Junior and .50 in Intermediate at the same school, would the teacher be considered junior or intermediate?

Response: Human Resources and the OECTA teachers union are currently in discussions regarding the impact on affected staff and the process to be followed.

Question: Are other areas being considered for an ARC?

Response: No, not at this time.

Question: Is there a projection of job losses CUPE/OECTA for both options?

Response: We are currently reviewing data to determine the possible impact. It's too early at this time to respond, but both options would yield the same results.

E. STEO – Transportation (STEO Operations Manager, Lisa Waldroff and STEO Route Planner, Diane MacIntyre)

Question: Will transportation still be available for students at St. Matthew CSS?

Response: At this time, no changes are planned for St. Matthew CSS.

Question: Would it be beneficial to have St. Columban's go to Bishop and realign Bishop's boundary to stop at 9th Street East and north of 9th Street to go to Sacred Heart? This would enable parents to walk to their child's school more easily if needed.

Response: All requests concerning boundary changes will be discussed with the ARC Committee to determine if further analysis is required.

F. Curriculum Department (Superintendent Natalie Cameron and Principal of Curriculum, Brent Bovaird)

Question: What are the benefits in programming when offering a 7 to 12 model?

Response: There are many advantages to having grade 7 & 8 in the secondary school environment. Some of those include:

- The transition from intermediate to secondary is much easier
- Retention is higher – students that are together in the 7/8 wing can remain together moving into the secondary setting (sense of community/family)
- Students have access to a much bigger gymnasium – great opportunities for various sports
- Students have greater access to gym equipment, soccer fields, etc.... Improved programming
- Intermediate teachers use the secondary science labs to do experiments, and further develop their science program – they have access to all secondary equipment
- Intermediate teachers work closely with secondary teachers to plan for Gr.9 EQAO and Gr.10 OSSLT – better preparation for these provincial assessments
- Students have access to specialist teachers – music teacher, construction teacher

- Students are able to take part in the culture and spirit of the school – For example, at Holy Trinity the grade 7/8 students are part of the house system– building leadership skills
- Students get to know some of the secondary teachers before they begin the grade 9 program
- The secondary Student Success team works closely with the intermediate team to plan the transition and to ensure that all needs are met.
- For special education students – the benefits are great – familiarity, similar routines, same environment, familiar faces
- For parents with multiple children from gr.7 to 12 – one parent night, one report card interview night, communication is easier (dealing with the same administration, secretaries, and guidance people). The start time is the same
- With 7/8 students in a secondary school, they are better able to develop leadership skills – camps, excursions, etc.
- St. Joseph’s is the only school in the area that still does not have the 7 to 12 model
- Based on data, surveys, etc, the 7 to 12 model at Holy Trinity has been extremely successful
- Anxiety is lessened for students who begin high school because of the elimination of a needed transition.
- Students start wearing uniforms in grade 7 to create a sense of belonging. Parents report that the uniforms simplify decisions in the morning. Equity among students is predominant
- The 7/8 wing is separate from the secondary wing – students are only brought together for spirit activities, masses, special sporting and artistic events. The 7/8 students have their lunch at a different time, recesses are still in place while secondary students are in class, etc
- 7/8 students have access to a cafeteria – they can purchase their lunches, snacks, etc.
- 7/8 students can more easily participate in drama productions – the auditorium is available to them. The secondary drama teacher will often call upon the 7/8 students to have minor roles in a play, etc.

Public Inquiry Comment Box Forms

- Boundaries should be “HARD”, no allowing students in other schools
- Boundaries should be altered to accommodate the changing demographics
- St. Joe’s is not very old, cost effective to keep existing building
- St. Joseph CSS should be the same as HT, 7-12. Existing location is perfect for boundary, right in centre
- Like the idea of new schools – kids shouldn’t be in portables – they are temporary and not meant to be a permanent solution. Kids changing classes in the cold, not healthy
- Cannot lose the automotive, tech, culinary classes at St. Joseph CSS. Trades are a must for students.
- There were comments regarding the process followed for questions and why public questions were directed to the Department tables.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Distribution:

ARC Members

Future meeting dates:

December 7, 2016 – ARC Working Meeting #2

December 14, 2016 – ARC Working Meeting #3 (TBD)

January 18, 2017 – ARC Working Meeting #4 (TBD)

February 15, 2017 – Public Meeting #2

February 22, 2017 – ARC Working Meeting #5 (TBD)