



**Delivery of Education in Espanola
Public Information Session
Thursday, September 19, 2013
Espanola High School Gymnasium
7:00 pm to 8:15 pm**

MINUTES

Present:

Board Trustees – Doreen Dewar (Chair), Dena Morrison (Vice-Chair), Bob Clement, Grace Fox, Judy Hunda, Larry Killens, Gord Santala, Robert Kirwan

Executive Council – Norm Blaseg, Director of Education; Diane Cayen-Arnold, Superintendent of Business; Lesleigh Dye, Superintendent of Schools; Bruce Bourget, Superintendent of Schools; and Judy Noble, Senior Administrator of Program and Services

Board Office - Michèle Smethurst, Recording Secretary, Rainbow District School Board; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning, Rainbow District School Board; and Sandi Ackroyd, Assistant Manager of Facilities, Rainbow District School Board

1. Welcome and Introduction of Trustees and Executive Council

Lesleigh Dye, the Superintendent for A.B. Ellis Public School and Espanola High School, welcomed everyone.

The purpose of this evening's public information session is to create a vision for the renewal of the Espanola High School building as the future home of A.B. Ellis Public School (JK to Grade 8) and Espanola High School (Grade 9 to 12).

This evening, public information sessions are being hosted by the three school boards who serve the community of Espanola: Rainbow District School Board, the Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario and the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board.

Each board is coming together with their respective school communities.

Rainbow District School Board is proposing to relocate A.B. Ellis Public School to the Espanola High School site, providing the Board receives capital funding from the Ministry of Education to renew the facility to create two distinct schools.

Superintendent Dye introduced Rainbow District School Board Trustees and the Executive Council. She also introduced Louis Bélanger and Amber Salach from Yallowega Bélanger Architecture.

She related that the Ministry of Education is encouraging area school boards to work together to determine how best to deliver education in the Espanola area in English and in French.

The goal is to ensure that all students continue to have access to the best programming possible in quality school facilities, reduce surplus space, and ensure the sustainability of existing programs and services for all students of the Board.

Superintendent Dye indicated that Rainbow District School Board wishes to maintain a strong presence in Espanola.

A PowerPoint presentation highlighted the background, vision and next steps for the renewal of the Espanola High School building as the future home of A.B. Ellis Public School and Espanola High School.

2. The background

In 2008, the Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario indicated that they would be vacating Espanola High School. This prompted Rainbow District School Board to include the Espanola area in its five-year capital plan.

In March 2013, the Ministry of Education sent a letter encouraging all three Boards to work together to address the needs of students in Espanola.

In accordance with the Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines and Rainbow District School Board Policy and Procedure 3.09, an accommodation review is not required for the relocation of A.B. Ellis Public School at the Espanola High School facility. A replacement school is being rebuilt within the existing school attendance boundary.

In five years, both schools will be at half capacity.

Enrolment projections were reviewed for A.B. Ellis Public School:

- Current enrolment is approximately 280 students.
- The school can support approximately 500 students.
- Enrolment in five years will be approximately 240 students.

Enrolment projections were reviewed for Espanola High School:

- Current enrolment is approximately 550 students.
- The school can support approximately 1100 students.
- Enrolment in five years will be approximately 470 students.

At a meeting held on July 2, 2013, the Board passed the following motion:
That A.B. Ellis P.S. (JK to Grade 8) be relocated at Espanola High School (Grade 9 to 12) by September 2014, subject to capital funding from the Ministry of Education.

It was emphasized that the Espanola High School facility will have two distinct schools (JK to 8 and Grade 9 to 12) with two separate entrances. Each school will have a Principal and a school office.

An architectural firm was hired to ensure that the Espanola High School site could be renewed to accommodate two distinct schools.

Representatives from Yallowega Bélanger Architecture attended the public information session and shared their overall conceptual approach to the creation of the two distinct schools. They listened to feedback from those in attendance who were invited to share what's important to them.

3. The vision

Superintendent Dye invited Louis Bélanger to explain two slides.

The first slide depicted the existing site plan with A.B. Ellis Public School, Espanola High School, the community centre next door and the track and field.

The second slide illustrated a vision for the renewal of the Espanola High School facility with three distinct elements – a day care (pre-school), an elementary school (JK to Grade 8) and a secondary school (Grade 9 to 12). Each school would have a dedicated entrance, a gymnasium and an administrative office. There would be an exterior play area for the elementary school and an exterior play area for the daycare children and Kindergarten students.

The elementary school will have its own nutrition breaks separate from the secondary school.

Parking needs will be considered as part of the renewal project.

4. Opportunity to share what's important to you

Superintendent Dye invited those in attendance to share what's important to them as the Board looks to create two distinct schools at the Espanola High School facility. The audience was divided into three groups to facilitate dialogue. Ideas were recorded on chart paper and will be included in the minutes of the meeting. The discussion will help inform the planning to create the two distinct schools.

At the end of the discussion, each group was asked to share two main points for presentation to the entire audience.

They are summarized below:

- Safety
- Use of space
- Two distinct schools. No shared space
- Neither school loses its identity
- Zero traffic: no flow between schools
- Maintain identity

See Appendix A for details.

5. Next steps

Superintendent Dye reiterated that capital funding from the Ministry of Education must be received in order to move forward with this proposal (i.e. the renewal of the elementary and secondary schools at the Espanola High School site).

She outlined next steps as follows:

- Executive Council will present the architect's design to the Board of Trustees at a Board Meeting
- a joint meeting of the A.B. Ellis Public School and Espanola High School School Councils will be held
- a second Public Information Session will be held
- renovations will begin
- the two new schools will be opened

Superintendent Dye indicated that the information presented at this evening's meeting will be posted on the Board website at www.rainbowschools.ca. To access the webpage, click on [Espanola Education](#) under "Highlights". She also advised that anyone wishing to share information or obtain information can do so by emailing espanola@rainbowschools.ca

Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the website within two weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Those in attendance were invited to continue to dialogue with representatives of the Board following the meeting.

Appendix A

Points from small group brainstorming

Safety:

- separate and safe play area away from road
- physical boundary between two schools – zero traffic flow
- where will bus pickup/drop off safely?
- control of traffic in the area near playgrounds
- fenced yard
- grade 7/8 supervision
- sidewalks and high school students smoking
- secondary have no reason to be near elementary
- secure elementary entrance
- fire exits/code compliance
- plan to address safety/information being shared with elementary students
- stop teasing of elementary by secondary while walking
- stop/limit exposure to smoking and other high school behaviour

Learning space at the renewed elementary and secondary school:

- How will it be divided? Full wall? Doors? Want it completely divided
- play space aligned with school space
- large ball-soccer place to burn energy at nutritional break
- JK separate playground
- maintain identity of A.B. Ellis P.S.
- will new A.B. Ellis have larger/decent classroom sizes?
- elementary outdoor space
- separate gym for elementary
- change room locations in new A.B. Ellis
- separate library
- grade 7 & 8 access to shops
- don't increase class sizes in new A.B. Ellis
- elementary staff room
- washrooms (i.e., elementary and secondary are separate)
- lockers or cubbies for elementary
- maintain a secondary school entrance
- do not want to lose shops
- high school students access to shops
- gym spaces – already have 3 gyms
- two separate PA systems
- communication between elementary classrooms
- room for counselors (Aboriginal, mental health)
- drama program (and all others) continued at Espanola High School
- ISP classes suited to meet needs (e.g., space, storage, appliances)
- breakfast club room
- two schools and community partners

- community use continues
- all current organizations/community partners in school
- elevator in both schools to make it accessible
- curtains, window covering, screens, new windows, stains removed
- gym exit for equipment & storage – align with yard
- maintain A.B. Ellis and Espanola H.S. signage
- welcome signage in three languages
- First Nations colours/grandfather teachings included in building or entrance
- testing space for special education staff
- daycare to be separate from the two schools
- learn from other boards with schools with similar configurations
- “Super” elementary school – all boards in Espanola

Opportunities:

- improved facilities
- upgraded infrastructure including heating/cooling systems
- improved buildings long-term
- significant green space (e.g., trees, gardens)
- right size facilities (e.g., door handles, washrooms by age)
- more electrical outlets
- consider A.B. Ellis as parking space