



**Accommodation Review Committee Report
Sudbury West Area Schools
Copper Cliff Public School
George Vanier Public School
Jessie Hamilton Public School
R.H. Murray Public School
Lively District Secondary School**

November 12, 2007

Mandate

The Accommodation Review Committee will develop options for student accommodations which will maximize student learning within the resources available to the Board and will present their findings and recommendations to the Board's Administrative Council.

Two Guiding Principles:

1. To ensure that all students continue to have access to the best programming possible in quality school facilities.
2. To reduce surplus space.

Membership

The Accommodation Review Committee is made up of two parent School Council members per school, one principal and teacher per school, the school superintendent, a municipal representative and a business representative. For a list of the Accommodation Review Committee members for Sudbury West, see Appendix A.

Data

Facility Condition Index (FCI)

Definition

$$\text{FCI} = \frac{\text{Facility Renewal and Repair Costs}}{\text{Replacement Cost of Asset}}$$

(Building Industry Standard to determine the building condition index)

FCI (Facility Condition Index) Rating:
Good FCI Rating = Less Than 5%
Fair FCI Rating: 5% to 10%
Poor FCI Rating: 10% to 30%
Critical FCI Rating: Greater Than 30%
Prohibitive to Repair: 65% or Greater

[illegible]

Process

The Rainbow District School Board's generic School Valuation Framework was developed with input from stakeholders including parents, educators, and board officials as well as business and municipal leaders. The generic School Valuation Framework was completed by each school and reviewed by the Accommodation Review Committee to assess the value of Copper Cliff Public School, George Vanier Public School, Jessie Hamilton Public School, R.H. Murray Public School and Lively District Secondary School (see Appendix B).

The School Valuation Framework for Sudbury West area schools created a picture or profile of each school by asking a series of questions in four categories:

- Value to the student
- Value to the community
- Value to the school board
- Value to the local economy

Accommodation Review Committee and Public Meetings

Accommodation Review Committee Meeting No. 1

Wednesday, February 21, 2007

6:00 pm

Lively District Secondary School

Introduced the data and the School Valuation Framework

Accommodation Review Committee Meeting No. 2

Wednesday, April 4, 2007

6:30 pm

Lively District Secondary School

Presented the School Valuation Framework

Accommodation Review Committee Meeting No. 3

Thursday, April 26, 2007

6:30 pm

Lively District Secondary School

Planned for Public Meeting No. 1

Public Meeting No. 1

Thursday, May 24, 2007

6:30 pm

Lively District Secondary School

Shared the data

Accommodation Review Committee Meeting No. 4

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

6:30 pm

Lively District Secondary School

Brainstormed options and planned for Public Meeting No. 2

Public Meeting No. 2

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

6:30 pm

Lively District Secondary School

Explored What is.... What could be

Accommodation Review Committee Meeting No. 5

Monday, June 25, 2007

6:30 pm

Lively District Secondary School

Reviewed Public Meeting No. 2 and discussed next steps

Accommodation Review Committee Meeting No. 6

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

6:30 pm

Lively District Secondary School

Planned Public Meeting No. 3, updated demographic data and reviewed options considering public input

Public Meeting No. 3

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

6:30 pm

Lively District Secondary School

Presented options developed by the Committee

Accommodation Review Committee Meeting No. 7

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

6:30 pm

Lively District Secondary School

Reviewed Public Meeting No. 3, reviewed options considering public input and planned for Public Meeting No. 4

Public Meeting No. 4

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

6:30 pm

Lively District Secondary School

Received public input on options developed by the Committee

Accommodation Review Committee Meeting No. 8

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

6:30 pm

Lively District Secondary School

Reviewed Public Meeting No. 4

Finalized options considering public input and determined content of Sudbury West ARC Report

Summary of Public Input

The key messages from the public have been gathered from the following:

- Presentations at Public ARC meetings
- Questions and comments at the Public ARC meetings as cited in the minutes
- Emails to accommodation@rainbowschools.ca
- Correspondence to Sudbury West ARC

These key messages represent opinions of individuals and, in some cases, groups. While these messages may have been presented more than once, they have been captured here as a single item only.

What we heard at Public Meeting No. 1:

- Concern about Lively District Secondary School students attending magnet programs in Sudbury
- Concern about class sizes being too large
- Concern that students who walk have the ability to continue to walk to school

Following Public Meeting No. 1:

- Lively District Secondary School is important to the community (consideration for the length of bus rides)
- Lively District Secondary School offers three specific programs benefiting students
- 15% of students at R.H. Murray are Aboriginal
- Small schools are preferable
- Community values the communication at R.H. Murray
- The values of the schools are similar to the Aboriginal Seven Grandfather teachings
- The community values French Immersion in Lively

What we heard at Public Meeting No. 2:

Presentations

- Maintain Lively District Secondary School in the community
- Move Grade 7 and 8 students at George Vanier and Jessie Hamilton to the secondary school (English and FI)
- Expand the specialist high skills major in mining offered at Lively District Secondary school
- Maintain a school in each community (Lively, Whitefish, Copper Cliff)
- Create a “green school” in Sudbury West —possibly on the south side of Highway 55
- Amalgamate R.H. Murray, George Vanier and Jessie Hamilton JK-6 in new school (include FI and child care on this same site in separate wings)
- R.H. Murray and Copper Cliff are essential to their community
- A boundary review would be beneficial for R.H. Murray (add students from east and west)
- Small rural schools make a difference in results
- Eliminate the magnet programs and focus on all schools as schools of excellence

Following Public Meeting No. 2:

- Do not try and solve an elementary problem by filling up the high school
- It is not fair to force Jessie Hamilton students to go to R.H. Murray through a boundary change
- R.H. Murray does not offer the same opportunities as Jessie Hamilton

What we heard at Public Meeting No. 3:

- Make Lively District Secondary School viable through more program options (i.e., trades, FI)
- Provide preschool to Grade 12 education in Sudbury West (add child care to high school - infants and toddlers Walden Day Care)
- Don't force students to attend a different school through boundary changes at R.H. Murray, let parents decide
- Separate high school from elementary school through physical boundaries, separate boundaries and separate transportation
- Do not put elementary students JK-6 in the high school

Following Public Meeting No. 3:

- Concern about George Vanier Public School being closed and the students, JK to 6, being placed in Lively District Secondary School
Opposed to sending current Jessie Hamilton Public School students to R.H. Murray
- Move unique courses to Lively District Secondary School to solve the viability of the high school. Recognize that this is a secondary problem

What we heard at Public Meeting No. 4:

- Do not segregate the French students from the English students
- Do not accommodate JK to 6 students at Lively District Secondary School
Change the rules for busing to increase enrolment at the high school (do not bus to magnet schools)
- Consider addressing space issues through non-student use
- Survey FI parents to determine their opinion regarding a move to Lively District Secondary School

Following Public Meeting No. 4:

- A request to review the recommendations to move JK-Grade 6 students to Lively District Secondary School
- A request to review the recommendations to move FI JK-6 students to a separate wing in Lively District Secondary School
- A request for an additional public meeting
- Make the green school, JK to 8, including FI
- Offer FI at the high school
- Leave Copper Cliff Public School open and allow students to attend Lockerby and Lo-Ellen Park
- Allow Copper Cliff Public School students to attend magnet programs
- Support for Option A (cannot support Option B or C in any aspect)
- Support for Copper Cliff feeding to Lively District Secondary School and JK-12 FI
- Support for 7 and 8s at the high school
- Keep secondary school as a secondary school (only)
- Have Grade 9 secondary students attend the local secondary school and offer magnet schools starting in Grade 10
- Support for JK-6 green school Jessie and George Vanier (English and FI)
- Support for a green school based on air quality issues
- Not supporting Option C, discriminates against the FI population, unlikely that FI will continue into secondary school
- Keep elementary schools small: support for two elementary schools in Lively, in order to maintain small schools (150-300) within walking distance
- Question about what happens to student currently enrolled in a Sudbury secondary school in FI, will/when they may have to change schools?
- Question about the timing for building a new school?
- Allow for growth in Sudbury West, new building and new jobs in the works

Recommendations:

In creating the options for Sudbury West, the ARC determined these priorities in decision-making:

- **Value to the Student** - overriding priority - our number one consideration in decision-making
- **Value to Community** - recognized that schools are a very important part of the sustainability of our community
- **Value to the Board** - realized that funding and government direction requires action to be taken
- **Value to the economy** - recognized that our schools are connected to the economic stability of our communities

The following themes have been consistent in the ARC's decision-making process:

- Keep a school in all communities
- Maintain a secondary school in Sudbury West
- Move Grade 7 and 8 students to the high school
- Support small schools, 300 to 400 students
- Maintain urban and rural schools
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The Sudbury West ARC had a very strong majority support for Option A with much less support for Option B and Option C.

Option A

- R.H. Murray Public School and Copper Cliff Public School remain open
- R.H. Murray Public School boundary extended towards the east for new students effective September 2008
- Copper Cliff becomes feeder school for Lively District Secondary School
- Move Grade 7 and 8 students from George Vanier Public School and Jessie Hamilton Public School to Lively District Secondary School (English and French Immersion)
- Combine JK to 6 students from Jessie Hamilton Public School and George Vanier Public School into a new green school (English and French Immersion)
- Use a portion of Lively District Secondary School for non-student use
- Offer Grade 9 to 12 French Immersion at Lively District Secondary School (Lively District Secondary School would offer French Immersion from Grade 7 to 12)

Rationale for Option A

This first option was developed by the ARC at its final meeting and represents the committee's response to input provided by the community at the public meetings. A majority of the committee supports this option as the preferred choice for the following reasons: this option gives consideration for the future through the building of a new green school; this option addresses the facility concerns at the two schools with the most pressing issues—George Vanier (in its actual physical condition) and Jessie Hamilton (over enrolment without space to grow); this option also responds to the enrolment pressures at the secondary school by providing the potential for growth by developing a Grade 7-12 focus through moving Grade 7 and 8 students into this facility, by recommending that FI be provided Grade 7-12 and by having Copper Cliff students feed into the secondary school in Lively. This option is also responsive to the community's desire to have a school located in each community (Whitefish, Lively and Copper Cliff). The idea of grandfathering the boundary changes to the east of R.H. Murray has been included to allow for minimum disruption to families currently enrolled at another school, affecting only families new to the area.

- Keeping R. H. Murray Public School and Copper Cliff Public School open responds to the desire of Sudbury West community to maintain a school in each community
- Maintaining Copper Cliff Public School in the community maintains:
 - a strong neighbourhood and community school where
 - 70% of students walk to school
 - only 2.5% of students are out of boundary
 - the structure is sound and well maintained
 - the grounds are superior
 - strong community/corporate support exists
 - community activities occur
 - community partnerships exist re. upgrades
 - government initiatives exist re. upgrades
 - the school is accessible
 - mining is growing and developing
 - an inclusive environment offers special programs (i.e., programs for students with autism and developmental disabilities)
- Maintaining R. H. Murray in the community maintains:
 - the only rural school from Espanola to Lively where
 - a 400 square km area exists
 - 97% of students are bussed with an average of 11.5 km distance/53 minute ride
 - the focal point for the rural community remains
 - Whitefish Lake First Nation is served
 - Fraser Institute ranks the school high

- Ontario Early Years Centre is located
 - 250 jobs in the development stage of Totten Mines exists
 - land is reclassified to rural
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- Maintaining Lively District Secondary School in the community maintains:
 - A secondary school in Sudbury West where:
 - Extending the boundary to the east captures a growing student population to bring R.H. Murray to 80% capacity
 - Extending the boundary for new students starting September 2008 allows students who are currently enrolled at Jessie Hamilton Public School to continue
 - Changing the receiving secondary school for Copper Cliff Public School allows population of Lively District Secondary School to increase over time and addresses potential space issues at Lockerby Composite School
 - Moving the Grade 7 and 8 students from Jessie Hamilton Public School and George Vanier Public School allows the English and French programs to co-exist and creates a Grade 7 to 12 secondary school providing enhanced access to facilities and more successful transitions for elementary students to secondary school
 - Combining Jessie Hamilton Public School and George Vanier Public School students, English and French JK to Grade 6 (about 600 students) into a green school reduces 182 pupil spaces, closes two sites and reduces energy costs
 - Using a portion of Lively District Secondary School for non-student use reduces available pupil spaces
 - Offering Grade 9 to 12 French Immersion at Lively District Secondary School would provide continuity of the French Immersion program which would lead to an increase in enrolment at the high school
 - If each element of this option is fulfilled, all excess space issues are addressed except for Copper Cliff Public School

Option B

- R.H. Murray Public School and Copper Cliff Public School remain open
- Move Grade 7 and 8 students from Jessie Hamilton Public School to Lively District Secondary School
- Move English and French Immersion programs, JK to 8, from George Vanier Public School to Lively District Secondary School, creating a school within a school
- Keep Jessie Hamilton Public School (JK to 6) open

Rationale for Option B

The ARC was advised to present more than one option to the Administrative Council in case the single option presented was not possible. Option B has been included in case a new green school is not a viable option. The next best solution is to use existing space and the best space available based on a tour of the existing facilities appears to be the site of Lively District Secondary School. The committee only considered this option with the proviso that the elementary school be a self-contained unit with separate entrances, playground, timetables, and administration. The potential in this option is that it uses the space in the secondary school facility and allows for programs to have some continuity over time; students who once located in the building may choose to continue their secondary education at Lively District Secondary School. This option addresses excess pupil space at Lively District Secondary School, George Vanier, and Jessie Hamilton. Careful review of the space is recommended to determine whether or not the number of classroom spaces required for both the elementary and secondary school will be necessary.

- Renovating an existing school may be more viable if building a new school is not a possibility
- Moving English and French Immersion programs, JK to 8, from George Vanier Public School to Lively District Secondary School receives little support. The committee conceived this idea from the start as a school within a school.
- Jessie Hamilton Public School (JK to 6) open without the Grade 7 and 8 students, means there would be no pressure for additional space.
- Upgrading the schools is recommended as required and as funds become available.

Option C

- R.H. Murray Public School and Copper Cliff Public School remain open
- Move Grade 7 and 8 students from George Vanier Public School and Jessie Hamilton Public School to Lively District Secondary School (English and French Immersion)
- Move French Immersion students, JK to 6, from George Vanier Public School to a wing of Lively District Secondary School
- Combine Jessie Hamilton Public School and George Vanier Public School (English program) in a new green school JK to 6

Rationale for Option C

The ARC spent quite a bit of time considering the advantages and disadvantages of separate facilities for students in French and English programs based on input from the public. There was some support for a single track FI school as the preferred option for academic reasons to maximize student exposure to French in an immersion context. Option C houses the FI program JK-6 at the secondary school site with the proviso that it is separated from the secondary school and self-contained in a wing of the secondary school. This option allows for the potential growth in enrolment at the secondary level should the fact that the elementary FI program is at the high school. Should enrolment be sufficient, consideration may be given to offering the FI program at the secondary level, allowing the FI students to have education from JK-12 in the same facility. Option C recommends a new green school JK-6, for English only. The reasoning behind this option is that this allows each of the schools to maintain a smaller enrolment; consistent with the input from the public for small schools (<300) and the values of the ARC of a school in each community.

- Moving French Immersion students, JK to 6, from George Vanier Public School to a wing of Lively District Secondary School allows the French Immersion program to maintain a French environment while utilizing space at Lively District Secondary School

Appendix A

Accommodation Review Committee Members

Appendix B

School Valuation Frameworks

Appendix C

Cumulative Capital Projects

Appendix D

Presentations

Appendix E

Correspondence