



**Accommodation Review Committee
Wembley Public School
Public Meeting No. 2 – What is... What could be
Wednesday, April 9, 2008
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

MINUTES

Present:

Board Trustees: - **Judy Hunda**, Chair; **Tyler Campbell**, Vice-Chair; **Dena Morrison**, Trustee; **Larry Killens**, Trustee; **Gord Santala**, Trustee; **Ruth Ward**, Trustee.

ARC Members - **Fred Law**, Superintendent of Schools; **Colleen McDonald**, Principal; **Renee McCormick**, School Council Chair; **Adria Wereszczynsky**, School Council member; **Joan Cass**, Teacher; **Paul Baskcomb**, Manager of Community and Strategic Planning, City of Greater Sudbury; **Erik Jokinen**, General Manager, Northridge Savings, Business Representative.

Administrative Council - **Jean Hanson**, Director of Education; **Diane Cayen-Arnold**, Superintendent of Business; **Norm Blaseg**, Superintendent; **Ada Della Penta**, Superintendent; **Lesleigh Dye**, Superintendent; **Dr. Sharon Speir**, Superintendent.

Board Office - **Rae Tolonen**, Executive Assistant, Recording Secretary; **Nicole Charette**, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning.

1. Welcome

Superintendent Law welcomed everyone to the second public meeting of the Accommodation Review Committee for Wembley Public School. Superintendent Law indicated that there were copies of the agenda at the door as well as extra copies of the information package from the first public meeting.

Superintendent Law informed the audience that the Rainbow District School Board established an Accommodation Review Committee for Wembley Public School and that the committee is seeking public input. Superintendent Law introduced the Accommodation Review Committee members.

Superintendent Law indicated that the mandate of the Committee is outlined on page 2 of the document entitled “It begins with you”, as follows - The Accommodation Review Committee will develop options for student accommodation, 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.

Guiding Principle:

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

Superintendent Law introduced the members of Administrative Council.

Superintendent Law told the audience that the trustees would consider public input and review the reports from the Accommodation Review Committee and from the Administrative Council with respect to Wembley Public School.

Superintendent Law introduced Rae Tolonen, the recording secretary and Nicole Charette, the Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning.

Superintendent Law informed the audience that the purpose of the second public meeting is to review the background, the mandate of the committee, the process and the timelines for public input as well as provide an overview of the School Valuation Framework and the area’s demographics. Superintendent Law also informed the audience that there would be a brief Q & A period after certain agenda items.

a) Background

Superintendent Law provided background information to all as a common starting point. Wembley Public School is an aging facility. Today, Wembley Public School is the Board’s school with the greatest need of repairs. In the school year 2003-2004, the Ministry of Education identified Wembley as Prohibitive To Repair (PTR) yet the school did not qualify for Ministry funding because the Board had excess pupil places within 8 kms in the surrounding schools. At the annual Accommodation meeting held on December 10th, 2007, the Board established an Accommodation Review Committee for Wembley Public School. Information was provided to the public through Board news releases, letters to parents/guardians, newspaper ads and public meetings.

In looking at the options for this aging structure, a number of factors will be considered as part of the review process, including the quality of the learning environment at the school, the range of program offerings, the adequacy of the school’s physical space to support student learning, and the proximity of the school

to students. Other factors, such as enrolment, operating costs, and capital needs, will also be considered. The ARC will make recommendations to the Board's Administrative Council. The goal is to maximize student learning within the resources available to the Board.

Board policy P.3.09 reflects the new guidelines set out by the Ministry of Education. There is a change of approach. The Board is going to the community for options instead of bringing decisions to the community for input. It is a more invitational process.

2. Overview of the process and timelines

Superintendent Law told the audience that the timelines and schedule of meetings are on page 4 of the handout entitled "It begins with you".

Superintendent Law indicated that the community would have an opportunity to receive updates on committee work and provide input at public meetings as the consultative process unfolds.

What is ...

3. School Valuation Framework (SVF)

- Value to Student
- Value to Board
- Value to Community
- Value to Local Economy

Superintendent Law explained that the SVF was developed in consultation with parents at a Parent Involvement Committee meeting. A Glossary was compiled to ensure a common understanding of terms. The SVF provides a picture or snapshot of the school's current status with a focus on the four areas. The SVF process was led by Principal Colleen McDonald with the involvement of the School Council members and the teacher from the ARC. The completed Framework was presented at the first public meeting. Superintendent Law called upon Principal McDonald to give a brief overview of the document.

Superintendent Law told the audience that the SVF and Glossary are posted on the Board's website: rainbowschools.ca and click on [boardroom/accommodation/Wembley](#)

Q & A

There were no questions from the audience at this time.

4. Demographics

The ARC felt it would be useful to have some background information on the demographics of the school community. Paul Baskcomb of the City of Greater Sudbury's Planning Department provided an overview of demographics. The presentation is available on the Board's website.

Paul asked if there were any questions from the audience.

Q - Director of Education, Jean Hanson

Director Hanson indicated that school boards across Ontario are experiencing declining enrolment, including Rainbow District School Board. There are 90,000 fewer students in Ontario schools (outside of the GTA) in the past five years. She thanked Paul Baskcomb for the demographics that he provided to the audience.

Within the City of Greater Sudbury, the number of children aged 0 to 14 has decreased by 16.5 per cent over the last ten years. The 40 and over age group, meanwhile, has increased by 17.8 per cent. The statistics confirm that we not only have an aging population, we have a significant decline in the number of school age children. According to the City of Greater Sudbury, there are a number of reasons for this - people are not having as many children, they are having children later in life, and those in the 24 to 39 age group are moving out of the city. The average household size has declined from 4.0 in 1971 to 2.4 in 2006.

Q – Margaret Sun (Community member – MacLeod Public School)

Schools in the south end are experiencing accommodation pressures because of the significant development in the area. Where will the students from Wembley Public School go?

A – Superintendent Law

The committee will consider this when they present options. He added that some schools have space pressures because of the cap of 20 in Primary Class Sizes.

Q – Margaret Sun

We should be looking at all surrounding areas. Will the committee look at this?

A – The ARC will take this into consideration. He indicated that Wembley was not under review because it has surplus space, but because it has been deemed Prohibitive To Repair.

Margaret Sun suggested that the committee reach out to other schools for assistance.

... What could be

5. Priorities for Students

Superintendent Law told the audience that the ARC has begun developing its priorities for the “ideal school”. Renee McCormick shared the process and priorities with the audience in a PowerPoint presentation.

Renee asked if the audience had any questions. There were no questions at this time.

Superintendent Law told the audience that the PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the Board’s website.

6. Presentations from the public

Superintendent Law reminded the audience that at the first public meeting he spoke about the opportunity and guidelines for the public to make presentations (page 3 of “It begins with you”). Superintendent Law pointed out that, to date, he had not received any requests for presentations but that this item will remain on future agendas.

7. Questions and Answers

Superintendent Law asked if anyone had any questions.

There were no questions at this time.

Superintendent Law reminded the audience that a specific email address has been set up for public input and general enquires: accommodation@rainbowschools.ca and that agendas and minutes of Public Meetings will be posted on the Board’s website at *rainbowschools.ca*

Click on accommodation under “highlights”. Click on Wembley Public School.

8. Adjournment

Superintendent Law thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Next Public Meeting

Wednesday, May 7, 2008 at 6:30 pm in Wembley Public School’s Gymnasium