



**Accommodation Review Committee
Public Meeting No. 1 – Sharing the Data
Sudbury West Area Schools
Thursday, May 24, 2007
Lively District Secondary School Gymnasium
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

MINUTES

Present:

Board Trustees – Tyler Campbell, Doreen Dewar, Grace Fox, Judy Hunda, Larry Killens, Jeanna Miller, Dena Morrison (Chair), Gord Santala, Ruth Ward

ARC Members - **Judy Noble**, Principal, Lively District Secondary School; **Michele Henschel**, Teacher, Lively District Secondary School; **Julie Beare**, School Council, Lively District Secondary School; **Lesley Fisher**, Principal, Jessie Hamilton Public School; **Tiina Bloomfield**, School Council, Jessie Hamilton Public School; **Hazel Smith**, Teacher, Jessie Hamilton Public School; **Sue Whealon**, School Council, Jessie Hamilton Public School; **Jack Mallette**, Principal, R.H. Murray Public School; **Heidi Green**, School Council, R.H. Murray Public School; **Cathy Stadder-Wise**, School Council, R.H. Murray Public School; **Sandra Heerschap**, Teacher, R.H. Murray Public School; **Sheryl Brown**, School Council, George Vanier Public School; **Maj Myers**, Principal, George Vanier Public School; **Dawn Chew**, Principal, Copper Cliff Public School; **Paul Giommi**, School Council, Copper Cliff Public School; **Gordon Apolloni**, School Council, Copper Cliff Public School; **Megan Bischoff**, Teacher, Copper Cliff Public School; **Paul Baskcomb**, Community Representative, City of Greater Sudbury; **Lesleigh Dye**, Superintendent, Rainbow District School Board (co-facilitator); **Sharon Speir**, Superintendent, Rainbow District School Board (co-facilitator); **Regrets:** **Ernie Heerschap**, School Council, Lively District Secondary School

Administrative Council – Jean Hanson, Director of Education; Diane Cayen-Arnold, Superintendent of Business; Norm Blaseg, Superintendent

Board Office - **Michèle Smethurst**, Recording Secretary, Rainbow District School Board; **Nicole Charette**, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning, Rainbow District School Board

1. Welcome

Superintendent Sharon Speir welcomed everyone and introduced co-facilitator Superintendent Lesleigh Dye, Board Trustees, members of the Board's Administrative Council, and members of the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) for Sudbury West.

Superintendent Speir explained the focus of tonight's meeting - sharing the data.

Superintendent Dye reviewed the agenda and explained that the Question and Answer period after each agenda item would be limited to 10 minutes. Those in attendance were also invited to jot down their questions on the chart paper posted around the room or to use the sticky notes that were provided. Superintendent Dye indicated that every effort would be made to end the meeting at 8:30 pm as scheduled.

2. Overview of Accommodation Review process

Superintendents Speir and Dye presented an Overview of the Accommodation Review process.

Tiina Bloomfield, School Council member from the Lively District Secondary School, facilitated questions and answers from the floor.

3. Overview of Board Data

Superintendent of Business Diane Cayen-Arnold presented an Overview of the Data. Copies of the data documents were distributed.

Julie Beare, School Council member from Jessie Hamilton Public School, facilitated questions and answers from the floor.

4. School Valuation Framework

Sharon Speir provided an overview of the School Valuation Framework with a focus on value to the student, value to the community, value to the school board and value to the local economy. She indicated that copies of the School Valuation Framework for each school in the Sudbury West area would be available at the end of the meeting and could also be obtained on the Board's website (rainbowschools.ca and click on accommodation). She stressed that the School Valuation Frameworks were not used to draw comparisons but were developed to paint a picture or provide a snapshot of each school.

Cathy Wise-Stadler, School Council member from R.H. Murray Public School, facilitated questions and answers from the floor.

5. City Demographic Trends and Development Activity in Sudbury West

Paul Baskcomb, Manager of Community and Strategic Planning for the City of Greater Sudbury, presented an overview of demographics and development in the Sudbury West area and the City.

Paul Giommi, School Council member for Copper Cliff Public School, facilitated questions and answers from the floor.

6. Purpose of next meeting

Superintendent Lesleigh Dye advised that the next Public Meeting would take place on Wednesday, June 20, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lively District Secondary School Gymnasium. Members of ARC will meet prior to this date to prepare for the second Public Meeting. The focus of the next meeting is “What is... What could be”. There will be an opportunity for public presentations from the community at large (maximum 10 minutes in length).

There was no question and answer period following this section of the agenda due to the (late) time. Superintendent Dye invited everyone to post their questions on the chart paper provide for this purpose or to email them to accommodation@rainbowschools.ca.

Copies of the data that was presented and each school’s School Valuation Framework were made available following the meeting. These documents, as well as the minutes of the meeting, including answers to questions tabled from the floor or posted on the chart paper, will be available online at rainbowschools.ca/boardroom/accommodation/SudburyWest

Superintendent Dye noted that all of the Rainbow District School Board Trustees were present at the first Public Meeting for Sudbury West and she thanked them and members of the Board’s Administrative Council for attending.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

**Questions and Answers from the Floor
During Public Meeting No. 1 in Sudbury West**

Please note:

This section was updated on June 20, 2007.

**Section 2: Overview of the Accommodation Review Process
Sharon Speir and Lesleigh Dye, Superintendents of School**

Q. Will there be voting at this meeting or later? (Brenda Seguin, Jessie Hamilton P.S.)

A. The Accommodation Review Committee will consider the public's input before making any recommendations. The Committee's goal is to reach decisions by consensus. The recommendations from ARC will be forwarded to the Board's Administrative Council. The Administrative Council will consider these recommendations and develop their own recommendations. Both ARC and Admin Council recommendations will be presented to the Board of Trustees. Trustees will vote on the final outcome for the Sudbury West area accommodation review, with changes to take effect in September 2008. No voting will be held at the public meetings.

Q. Does the Board have to follow the recommendations of the ARC? (André Comeau, Jessie Hamilton P.S.)

A. The Accommodation Review process provides the public with an opportunity to make their views known and their voices heard. Board Trustees will make their final decision based on public input, the recommendations from ARC, the recommendations from the Board's Administrative Council and the best educational interests of students in Sudbury West.

Q. Will there be the option of keeping all five schools open? (Sean Newell-Barette, Copper Cliff P.S.)

A. One of the primary goals of the Accommodation Review process is to reduce surplus space. Enrolment projections show that Sudbury West area schools have significant surplus space. This needs to be addressed. As a result, school closure is a possibility.

Q. Would it be possible to find creative ways to use space in other ways? (Mimi Wiseman, lives/works in Copper Cliff)

A. The Accommodation Review process is intended to engage the public in offering solutions. The ARC will hear all possibilities.

Q. Where is the excess space? (Marcel Laplante, Lively D.S.S.)

A. Superintendent of Business Diane Cayen-Arnold will answer this question in her presentation on the Board's data.

Q. Is the Board working with other boards to solve this issue? Would working with the other boards provide some possible options? (André Comeau, Jessie Hamilton P.S.)

A. We are always interested in solutions that are mutually beneficial. When there have been opportunities to share or rent space with one of the other boards, we have done so. We currently rent space to the French Catholic Board at Espanola High School. This has worked out well for the Rainbow District School Board, however, the other boards in the region are not looking for space in our schools. In fact, they are interested in building new schools.

Q. Is there a similar mandate for every Accommodation Review Committee?

A. Yes.

Q. Why was the Sudbury West Area chosen?

A. Sudbury West has the most surplus space and the greatest number of facilities that are prohibitive to repair. There are also enrolment pressures in this area - one school (Jessie Hamilton) is over capacity; the other schools are under capacity. The Jessie Hamilton Public School Council has asked us to review their space pressures.

Q. Will the committee consider the impact of the Board's decision to bus students from the Lively area into the city to attend other secondary schools, resulting in lower enrolment at Lively District Secondary School? In the 1970s, L.D.S.S. had 900 students. (Paul Doyle, retired teacher at Lively D.S.S.)

A. In the 1970s, we experienced the baby boom and the population in all schools was at an all time high. We currently live in an age of declining enrolment. Specialized programs can only be offered in schools with significant student populations. Offering specialized programs at different schools allowed the Board to meet the educational needs of students in specific (and intensive) areas of study (ie. science and technology, arts education, technology and trades, etc.), while retaining students. A healthy student enrolment has a positive impact across the Board in relation to student programs. If families do not find the program they want for their children, they change schools.

Section 3: Overview of Board Data

Diane Cayen-Arnold, Superintendent of Business

Q. Will we be able to see the information pertaining to other schools? It would be good to see the entire picture. (Dave Rowell, Lively citizen)

A. The Ministry encourages boards to review accommodations on an annual basis. The Board's Capital Advisory Committee looked at all areas and established priorities based on the greatest needs. The schools in the Valley area were the first to be reviewed because of enrolment pressures. There was a community request to review the Sudbury West area because of the accommodation pressures (overcapacity at Jessie Hamilton and surplus space at the other schools). The information for other school areas in the Rainbow District School Board's jurisdiction is posted on the Board's website at rainbowschools.ca/boardroom/Reports: Five-year Capital Plan.

Q. Is there a standard formula to predict enrolment? (Steve Sheehan, Teacher, Copper Cliff)

A. Enrolment predictions are determined by principals and reviewed by superintendents by looking at grade progression, historical trends, and residential/economic growth/decline in the area served by the school. Principals also have a good sense of the community. Principals use a similar process to determine enrolment predictions from school to school.

Q. Is it a concern when some principals are new to the school and community?

A. No. Newer principals collaborate with the former principals and with superintendents. They look at the trends and base their predictions on the students in the school. The enrolment projections are reviewed and updated annually.

Q. Could the data be given ahead of time? (Jason Neva, R. H. Murray P.S.)

A. The purpose of the first Public Meeting for the Sudbury West area is to share the data. Hard copies of the data will be distributed to each person in attendance at the meeting. This information is also available on the Board's website. If you have additional questions after viewing the data, you are welcome to send us your question by email at accommodation@rainbowschools.ca. We are developing a question and answer section on the website.

Q. How do you ensure that the costs of repairs are accurate and up-to-date?

A. The Board hired an external company to validate the projects and the costs that were identified by the Ministry of Education. Rainbow District School Board uses the numbers from this external company as they represent the actual repair and replacement costs for our schools. This information, available by categories, is on [rainbowschools.ca](http://www.rainbowschools.ca) at the following:
<http://www.rainbowschools.ca/boardroom/accommodation/sudburyWest.php>
Click on Sudbury West data.

Q. As these inspections were done in 2004, who updates the numbers as changes are made? (Mimi Wiseman)

A. The School Board updates these numbers on an ongoing basis. The Ministry adds an inflation factor.

Q. Would it be possible to see information on the Northern Ontario contractor numbers?

A. More detail related to these numbers is available online at
<http://www.rainbowschools.ca/boardroom/accommodation/sudburyWest.php>
Click on Sudbury West data.

Q. Will there be a review of the enrolment figures based on the growth in the community and future development, which potentially means more students and a bigger tax base? (Terry Antonioni, Jessie Hamilton P.S.)

A. We sincerely hope there will be future development. Later this evening, Paul Baskcomb will deliver a presentation on the growth activity for this area. While we recognize that there is growth, at this time, the growth does not appear to be at the level required to keep the schools in the Sudbury West area at full capacity.

Q. Were the projected numbers compared to current reality based on the previous accommodation review? I would be interested in seeing these numbers. (Dan Foy, George Vanier P.S.)

A. Enrolment data is available at the following link:
<http://www.rainbowschools.ca/boardroom/accommodation/sudburyWest.php>

Q. Other boards are building schools and children are being sent there. How can other boards build, while this board considers eliminating space?

A. Rainbow District School Board is experiencing declining enrolment. The French Public Board is receiving funds from the Ministry of Education to

support growth. If we can reduce surplus space, we may generate new capital dollars to renew our existing schools and provide a good learning environment for our students. Without reducing space, we cannot access more capital dollars.

Q. I am concerned that Lively students are going to schools in town and that without these students our schools, especially our high school, is not viable.

A. This is one of the reasons we are asking for the public to offer solutions.

Q. How do capital costs get weighed against the cost of running a school? (Sean Mitchell, Jessie Hamilton)

A. The costs of operating a school and repairing a school are two separate challenges. The question is, "Is it worth spending money to maintain or reduce excess space to get more money?". We do not have large amounts of capital dollars to repair our schools.

Q. Would it be an option to build a new school?

A. Yes, if we reduce space. We need the public's input to provide creative solutions.

Section 4: School Valuation Framework **Superintendent Sharon Speir**

Q. In the value to the students, how do student assessment numbers (EQAO) factor into the formula? Is this data being used in the decision? (André Comeau, Jessie Hamilton P.S.)

A. The framework is intended to provide an overall picture of each school. We are not looking at this data as a weighting factor.

Q. Will the final decision cause a school to become over-capacity? (Paul C., Copper Cliff)

A. We have no interest in overloading classes. The class sizes are calculated based on the grants provided by the Ministry of Education for teachers. There is funding by the Ministry to support class sizes of 20 in the primary division.

Q. How are you going to keep class sizes small by closing schools?

A. The goal is to reduce excess space and generate money to better utilize the space we have to serve the interests of students. If we continue to invest money into aging buildings, we are not using our limited resources effectively for the education of our students.

Q. Is data on students, for example, times spent on buses, included in the valuation report? (Jason Neva, R. H. Murray)

A. This data, including the average bus time for students, is in the School Valuation Framework for each school. This data is calculated by the Sudbury Student Services Consortium, which manages transportation on behalf of all four school boards. This information will be taken into consideration.

Section 5: City Demographic Trends and Development Activity in Sudbury West – Paul Baskcomb, City of Greater Sudbury

Q. Has there been consideration given to the nickel prices? (Dan Foy)

A. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation only predicts one to two years down the line.

Q. Will the ARC make adjustments when the 2006 census numbers are in? (Michele Munroe, Copper Cliff)

A. At this time, we are working with the current numbers. Figures will be updated as new information is provided.

Q. Has the new mine that will be opening in the Whitefish area been factored in for R.H. Murray? (Ian Wood)

A. The Totten Mine Project calls for approximately 250 jobs during the development phase of the mine. The Mine will employ an estimated 150 people once it is in full operation by 2012. Both the Totten Mine and the Copper Cliff Deep Project's impact on employment would allow CVRD Inco to sustain and even slightly increase employment. However, factors such as attrition and retirement must be taken into account in evaluating job numbers. Overall, both initiatives bode well for the city in general. (Info provided by CVRD Inco).

Q. What is the value of having principals develop enrolment figures? (André Comeau, Jessie Hamilton)

A. Enrolment projections are not difficult, simply a population count of the time. Principals may have an advantage by being in and involved in the community.

Q. Would there be a benefit to hire an outside firm to help with enrolment projections?

A. Principals have been able to project enrolment quite accurately in Rainbow Schools.

Questions Posted on the Chart paper:

Q. Would the ARC consider an option to change boundaries to east and/or west to increase enrolment and relieve pressure at these schools and also improve the utilization numbers?

A. If the ARC chooses, they could make a recommendation for a boundary change for the schools under review. A boundary change would create excess space elsewhere.

Q. Census stats provided were for ages 0-14 years. Since these changes will be effective in September 2008, should 15-18 years not also be considered?

A. Enrolment for 13-15 year olds is included in the secondary school enrolment data.

Q. Are projections for the Copper Cliff community (notably one that is not growing from a new housing perspective but is certainly growing with young families with children under five) determined by turnover or birthrate or using different factors?

A. The trends in enrolment are considered.

Q. Can you provide us with enrolment numbers for each school for the past perhaps 20 years?

A. Enrolment data is available at the following link:
<http://www.rainbowschools.ca/boardroom/accommodation/sudburyWest.php>

Q. Has the committee taken into consideration the savings from cutting off the transportation to the “special” program schools i.e. Lockerby?

A. School boards are in the business of providing the best possible education for students and that means offering students a variety of choices. Unfortunately, we do not have the population density to offer all courses at all schools.

Q. If busing to Sudbury from outlying areas was not offered, could we increase the enrolment figures in Lively District Secondary School?

A. Not necessarily. With less choice at the local secondary school, students may continue to opt to go to a different school or school system.

Q. Can questions and answers be addressed by Board members at the next public meeting?

A. The answers to the questions have been provided by staff. The role of the trustees in this process is to listen to the ideas and options presented by the community.

Q. How much would it cost to close Jessie Hamilton P.S. and George Vanier P.S. which are located in prime development areas, and build a new school to accommodate these students, perhaps property on the top of Black Lake Road? One school - 86% capacity.

A. The ARC could consider this as an option and if so, the costs would be calculated.

Q. Are any results going to come from public input?

A. We are sincere in our desire to have a viable solution come from the community. All decisions will be made by the trustees after the process has been completed and the community has had an opportunity to provide input.

Q. Can we have a summary of all questions asked (even those that you are not able to answer quickly) so that we have a record of what has been asked?

A. All of the questions asked and recorded have been provided in this question and answer section.

Q. Is it really fair or prudent to base a decision about schools on enrolment projections?

A. We have confidence in the projected enrolment based on the trends and a high degree of accuracy achieved in the past.

Q. There is potential for a new provincial government in October. Is it prudent to make these decisions now?

A. Any changes recommended would not take effect until September 2008 - after the provincial election.

Q. If capital funding comes from reducing space in Sudbury West, will it be put back into Sudbury West?

A. Money saved will be reinvested into the facilities in Sudbury West.

Q. How many children residing in Walden are currently bused elsewhere and what is the cost of that busing?

A. There are 177 students who are in the Lively District Secondary School catchment area who attend public secondary schools in Sudbury. There are also 60 students from outside of the Lively District Secondary School catchment area who attend the specialized program at Lively District Secondary School. We are still gathering the information in response to the costs for busing and this information will be posted as soon as it becomes available.

Q. Would your capital estimates not have more validity if conducted by an impartial third party and not be vested interests like the school board and Ministry?

A. In order to get local costs, the capital costs have been validated by a third party.

Q. What is the cost to bus students out of Lively?

A. We are currently gathering the information in response to this question and it will be posted as soon as it becomes available.

Q. Why is Sudbury Secondary School not being considered right now? It is the oldest and costliest to repair.

A. Sudbury Secondary School's renewal needs are currently being reviewed.

Q. How many job losses are you looking at (teachers, aides, janitors, etc.) school bus drivers?

A. Jobs are based on enrolment. Since we are experiencing some decline in enrolment, there is some expectation that we may have to downsize in the future regardless of the outcome of the accommodation review.

Q. Do all the current repairs at LDSS (new windows, blinds, elevator) affect the current estimated cost to repair the building?

A. Some of these costs may be factored in. They represent a small amount in comparison to the overall anticipated expenditures.

Q. Why are there no costs provided for busing to all magnet schools? Is the lowered enrolment for LDSS directly related to busing? How many students leave for magnet schools like Lockerby and Lo-Ellen?

A. There are 177 students who are in the Lively District Secondary School catchment area who attend public secondary schools in Sudbury. There are also 60 students from outside of the Lively District Secondary School catchment area who attend the specialized program at Lively District Secondary School. We are still gathering the information in response to the costs for busing and this information will be posted as soon as it becomes available.

Q. Has Northern Ontario's unique situation re: less dense population base been taken into consideration? The Ontario government's formula doesn't seem to consider rural schools and their needs.

A. Northern boards receive grants to compensate for this. Rainbow District School Board qualifies for and receives both rural and remote grants.

Q. Under FOI legislation, is the Board obligated to provide the detailed Principal's enrolment predictions and/or utilization/enrolment for the rest of the Board's schools?

A. This information is available on the Board's website at rainbowschools.ca/boardroom/Reports: Five-Year Capital Plan.

Q. Will you ensure that present "walkers" won't end up on a bus?

A. The ARC will take into consideration this impact in their recommendations.

Q. Why haven't repairs been done yearly as needed?

A. Repairs dealing with safety have been maintained over the years. We are now faced with major repairs due to aging buildings. Some of these repairs are not immediate, but will be required over the next 5 to 10 years.

Q. Is Dalron interested in any of these properties?

A. None of the properties are up for sale.

Q. If high school boundaries were respected, how would the capacity numbers change? (This should be an easy calculation.)

A. Current enrolment at Lively District Secondary School is 399 students (2006-2007 School Year). The school's capacity is 852 students. The utilization rate is 47 per cent. A total of 177 students who live within the Lively District Secondary School boundaries attend other public secondary schools for French Immersion and specialized programs (ie. the International Baccalaureate Program, Science and Technology Education Program, Performing Arts, and the Bilingual Trades Program.) There are also 60 students outside the Lively District Secondary School boundaries who are transported to Lively District Secondary School for the Integrated Technology program. If these options were not provided to students, and the school boundaries were respected, the enrolment would be 516 and the utilization of the school would be 61 per cent.

Q. Why will the Board not share all capacity/cost data for all Rainbow Schools?

A. The information is available on the Board's website at rainbowschools.ca/boardroom/Reports: Five-Year Capital Plan.

Q. Can you share the rationale for the decision made in the Valley? Details please. (one elementary school)

A. Val Caron P.S. is a JK to Grade 1 school and Valley View P.S. is a Grade 2 to 8 school. As a result of the high capital costs to renew both schools and the advantages to student learning of having one location for JK-8 students, the decision was made to consolidate both schools into one building.

Q. Did the Jessie Hamilton Public School enrolment projections include the city approved 155 new lots in the Jessie Hamilton catchment area?

A. In the enrolment projections, new development and potential growth were considered.

Q. The census data presented by the City of Greater Sudbury area is for 2001. Why not wait for 2006 census data?

A. The data will be updated when it becomes available.

Further questions can be sent to accommodation@rainbowschools.ca