



**Accommodation Review Committee  
Public Meeting No. 2 – What is...What could be  
Sudbury West Area Schools  
Wednesday, June 20, 2007  
Lively District Secondary School Gymnasium  
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

**MINUTES**

**Present:**

**Board Trustees** – 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; **Ernie Heerschap**, School Council, 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; **Stacey Foy**, Teacher, 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; **Lesleigh Dye**, Superintendent, Rainbow District School Board (co-facilitator); **Sharon Speir**, Superintendent, Rainbow District School Board (co-facilitator)

**Regrets:** Paul Baskcomb, Community Representative, City of Greater Sudbury; Tyler Campbell, Board Trustee

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

**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.

## **2. Overview of Agenda**

Superintendent Dye reviewed the agenda. It was noted that the Walden Community Action Network (CAN) Education Task Force would be represented by Richard Bois as the first presentation listed on the agenda. It was also noted that there would be a 7<sup>th</sup> presentation added to the agenda given by former students of R.H. Murray Public School.

## **3. Review of Public Meeting No. 1 – Thursday May 24, 2007**

Superintendent Speir re-capped the first public meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> where the focus was on sharing the data provided by Rainbow District School Board and the data provided by the City of Greater Sudbury. Superintendent Speir indicated that tonight's meeting would focus on input from the community.

## **4. ARC Sudbury West Parent presentation (Ernie Heerschap)**

Superintendent Dye invited Ernie Heerschap to speak on behalf of the Sudbury West parent group.

Mr. Heerschap indicated that the parents had met as a working group and had come together as one voice for Sudbury West schools. He presented two slides outlining the core values they will use in their decision-making. He noted that the intent of tonight was to get input from the community. He thanked the presenters who would speak this evening. He also thanked the ARC members for their hard work and cooperative spirit throughout this process.

## **5. Presentations**

- ◆ Richard Bois delivered a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of the Walden Community Action Network (CAN).
- ◆ Jason Neva delivered a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of a parent group from the R.H. Murray & Whitefish community

- ◆ Mimi Wiseman delivered a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of the Copper Cliff CAN Committee
- ◆ Pam Brown, Chair of the Jessie Hamilton School Council, delivered a PowerPoint presentation

**Note: The PowerPoint presentations are available on the Rainbow District School Board's website – [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca) – click on accommodations.**

- ◆ Dr. Tom Crichton, parent at Copper Cliff Public School, gave an oral presentation. He asked the question: "Is bigger better?"

Dr. Crichton shared research which indicated that the average elementary school accommodates between 300 to 400 students, and for secondary schools, 400 to 800 students and that in large schools, only 30% of students had a sense of belonging as compared to 70% in smaller schools. Northeastern Elementary School has 644 students and the new Valley View Public School would have approximately 500 students.

His review showed that students from smaller schools have higher achievement in areas such as literacy. This is demonstrated in our board through schools such as Jessie Hamilton, Copper Cliff and George Vanier. He said that there was a change in attitude in the 90's to larger schools and asked that the notion of "bigger is better" be reconsidered.

Dr. Crichton spoke of how "green" schools were repeatedly mentioned in some of the presentations this evening. He reminded everyone that there was no need to abandon older schools, they could be made more efficient.

- ◆ The next presenter, Dr. Rob Lepage, parent at Lively District Secondary School, thanked the committee for the opportunity to speak. He praised the other presenters.

Dr. Lepage said he and his wife moved into the community 17 years ago. They have one son who attends Lively District Secondary School (LDSS) and another who will attend next year. He is hoping his youngest child will attend as well. He commended the Principal and Vice-Principal for doing an excellent job running the school and said that LDSS is one of the best kept secrets in the City of Greater Sudbury.

Dr. Lepage said he was surprised by the intense competition between high schools to recruit students. This led to his son questioning whether he should go to LDSS. Dr. Lepage indicated we should do away with magnet schools and that all schools should be centres of excellence. Dr. Lepage said he favours moving Grades 7 and 8 to LDSS. This would keep students there.

Dr. Lepage noted that students who attend local schools can participate in extra-curricular activities more easily than those who are bussed out of the community. He indicated that in his capacity as a medical doctor, he sees the increasing problem of obesity in our youth. He noted that this is due largely to inactivity and that kids need to be active to stay healthy.

Dr. Lepage sees the Walden/Lively area as a booming community that should not close its schools.

- ◆ Matt Little, former student at R.H. Murray Public School, said R.H. Murray Public School was wonderful and that it helped him become a well-rounded person.

As a result of R.H. Murray Public School, he felt he had been better prepared for high school than other Grade 9 students. The leadership skills he gained in elementary school encouraged him to become more involved in high school as well as university.

Mr. Little presented a short video from students as a testament to the benefits of the school.

He invited Lisa Cousineau, another former student at R.H. Murray Public School to speak. Ms. Cousineau, who continued her education in medical biology and now works for a large pharmaceutical company, says attending R.H. Murray Public School was a great part of her life. She indicated she would like to some day return to the community to raise a family and hoped her children would attend R.H. Murray Public School. Ms. Cousineau said many former R.H. Murray Public School students have enjoyed a lot of success.

## **6. ARC Sudbury West parent closing comments (Paul Giommi)**

Superintendent Speir thanked all the presenters and introduced Paul Giommi, who would give the closing remarks.

Mr. Giommi began by reminding the community that the next Public Meeting will take place on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007. He invited everyone to visit the [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca) website for updates.

Mr. Giommi mentioned that ARC members are committed to the core values that were presented this evening. He showed two final slides on the next steps in the committee's process.

Director Jean Hanson closed the meeting by saying how impressed she was with the presentations. The speakers touched on areas that are also important to Rainbow District School Board – student engagement / learning and

sustainability. Director Hanson thanked the presenters for their ideas and thoughtful proposals.

She indicated that the work of the ARC for Sudbury West is ongoing. The Committee will present options at the next Public Meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The community will have an opportunity to provide input on these options at Public Meeting No. 4 on October 17, 2007.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.