



**Accommodation Review Committee
Public Meeting No. 3
Sudbury West Area Schools
Wednesday, September 19, 2007
Lively District Secondary School Gymnasium
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

MINUTES

Present:

Board Trustees – Tyler Campbell, Doreen Dewar, 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; **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; **Maj Myers**, Principal, George Vanier Public School; **Dawn Chew**, Principal, Copper Cliff Public School; **Paul Giommi**, 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); **Paul Baskcomb**, Community Representative, City of Greater Sudbury

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

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

Regrets: **Grace Fox**, Trustee; **Ernie Heerschap**, School Council, Lively District Secondary School; **Sandra Heerschap**, Teacher, R.H. Murray Public School; **Tiina Bloomfield**, School Council, Jessie Hamilton Public School

1. Welcome

Superintendent Lesleigh Dye welcomed everyone and introduced co-facilitator Superintendent Sharon Speir, 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 Speir reviewed the agenda and gave a brief update of developments since the last public meeting held in June.

3. City Demographics for Sudbury West: Update

Superintendent Speir introduced Paul Baskcomb, Manager of Community and Strategic Planning, City of Greater Sudbury. Mr. Baskcomb provided an update on demographics and development in Sudbury West. This included 2006 census information which was not yet available when he presented at the first public meeting. Mr. Baskcomb indicated Sudbury has a growing aging population. The demographics showed the change in population in the City of Greater Sudbury as well as Walden and Copper Cliff, particularly in the 0 to 14 age group. The presentation is now available on the Rainbow District School Board's website, under Accommodation.

4. Presentation of options developed by the Accommodation Review Committee for Sudbury West

Superintendent Speir invited Paul Giommi to facilitate the presentation of options on behalf of the ARC.

Mr. Giommi introduced himself as a member of the Copper Cliff School Council and thanked the parents/guardians and other members of the community for their participation. He also thanked the individuals/groups who made presentations at the second public meeting held on June 20th, 2007. Mr. Giommi thanked the members of ARC for their diligent work and respectfully acknowledged the administration of Rainbow District School Board whose task will be to address the recommendations brought to them by the committee.

Before the presentation, Mr. Giommi advised that this was a working document and that the public's input is welcome. Following the presentation, he asked that questions from the floor be limited to one question per person in order to give those who did not have the opportunity to ask questions at the last public meeting a chance to do so.

The presentation is available on the Rainbow District School Board's website, www.rainbowschools.ca under Accommodation.

5. Questions from the floor

Paul Giommi facilitated questions and answers from the floor.

Q. I would like clarification on the last slide of the presentation showing the total costs of \$15 million for the new school and \$13 million for upgrades to R.H. Murray, Copper Cliff and Lively District Secondary School. Is the \$13 million included in the \$15 million? (Robert Luopa, R.H. Murray P.S.)

A. The \$13 million is in addition to the \$15 million for a total of \$28 million.

Q. Is there evidence or research to support the recommendations for these different scenarios? (Valerie Scarfone, George Vanier P.S.)

A. The research does not clearly indicate a preference for one scenario over another. ARC will be reviewing research done on Grades 7 to 12 schools.

Q. How are the priorities/options ranked? And what are the costs involved? (Greg Puro, Jessie Hamilton P.S.)

A. The options were not ranked. ARC is looking for community response to these options. The first public meeting provided dollar figures. Once ARC makes its recommendations, the next stage in the process will be to examine the costs.

Q. With respect to cost considerations, which portion is cosmetic or functional/instructional? (Adam Walli, George Vanier P.S.)

A. This information is available on the Board's website. Additional information, as it becomes available, will be posted on the website.

Q. The high school is non sustainable with a population of 400 to 450 students? Could any changes be made to the curriculum to make the school sustainable at 370 students? (Dave Allen, Lively District S.S.)

A. The curriculum will not change. The Rainbow District School Board offers a broad range of programs but cannot offer them in all schools.

Q. The presentation shows that an 80 per cent capacity is acceptable. At any time, has the board told the committee what is unacceptable? (Pam Brown, Lively District S.S.)

A. There may be some leeway, however, we can say that 50 per cent capacity is unacceptable. 80 per cent capacity is the target. It allows for growth and, at this capacity, the Board receives full funding from the Ministry.

Q. Were there any directives given from the board stating what would not be accepted?

A. No.

Q. Considering the figures are based on 5 year predicted enrolment and the enrolment at Lively District S.S. at 93 per cent capacity (slide 20 of the presentation), will we be back here in the future? (Anne Dupont, Jessie Hamilton P.S.)

A. Our mandate is to try to ensure we are not.

Q. What will happen to Jessie Hamilton P.S. and George Vanier P.S. sites?

A. If the schools are closed, the board could sell the property.

Q. Options are being looked at based on 5 years. For a capital project, should we be looking at 10 to 15 years down the line? (André Comeau, Jessie Hamilton P.S.)

A. There are enrolment projections for up to 10 years. ARC is presenting a snapshot at 5 years and the next step will be to look at 10 years.

Q. If we move Jessie Hamilton P.S. and George Vanier P.S. to the high school, what will happen to the high school students? (Judy Laplante, Lively District S.S.)

A. The high school students stay at the high school. The space at the high school will be more fully utilized. Keeping Lively District S.S. open is a priority for this community.

Q. How do we attract kids outside of Lively to come to Lively District S.S.? Students who are in Grade 7 and 8 are expected to choose early for specialty programs. (Denise Funnell, Jessie Hamilton P.S.)

A. Some schools offer specialty programs. Lively is a magnet school that offers the Integrated Technology program. One of the parents on the ARC lives in Sudbury and her son decided to attend Lively District S.S. after attending their open house and he loves the smaller size and the technology option.

Q. More should be done to promote the school as we are starting to realize there is a shortage of trades.

A. Lively District S.S. has the new Specialist High Skills Major in mining and continues to form partnerships with the trades. There was a committee formed from the last accommodation review that promoted Lively District S.S. and spent months on a student recruitment program and this continues on an annual basis.

Q. If we change the boundary at R.H. Murray to capture students now attending Jessie Hamilton P.S. would they be forced to attend? (Heidi Maanselka, Jessie Hamilton P.S.)

A. The purpose of changing the boundaries would be to reduce surplus space by moving students. No one is forced to attend a certain school, but bussing may not be provided.

Q. When considering moving elementary students into Lively District S.S. to increase its capacity, would bringing French Immersion to Lively District S.S. be an option? (Paul Sajatovic)

A. The FI program is looked at annually and not all students continue on in the FI program when they enter the secondary panel. It has to be sustainable.

Q. I've notice the new blue signs have been put up at the Sudbury schools, but not at Sudbury West schools. Why is this? (Paul Sajatovic)

A. We are in the process of installing the new signs. Not all schools have had signs installed yet.

Q. If George Vanier is incorporated in Lively District S.S., would there be a physical barrier, separate entrances and separate transportation? (Mike Dunn, George Vanier P.S.)

A. Bussing is integrated. There are many busses going to all the different schools providing transportation for all four school boards. However, we try to respond to these requests.

Q. If a boundary change sends students from Jessie Hamilton to R.H. Murray, and parents decide they still want their children to attend Jessie Hamilton, would bussing be provided? (Jodie Larson, Jessie Hamilton P.S.)

A. Bussing is only provided for specialized programs such as French Immersion. In secondary schools, bussing is provided for magnet schools only if they are enrolled in a specialized program.

Q. Have you considered that parents may not want to send their elementary children to a secondary school? (Laurie Stillwaugh, Jessie Hamilton P.S.)

A. This is why we want the public's input. The ARC wants to hear the community's response to these options.

Q. I am horrified to think of having my 5 and 8 year old in a high school setting. It is not a good mix. Although you say most teens are wonderful, I have seen them driving out of the school parking lot at high speeds. (Christine Liscim, George Vanier P.S.)

A. Thank you for your comment.

Q. When does new construction get approved by the Ministry? Do we have to “cram” students into one facility in order to get a new building? (Marianne Coleman, George Vanier)

A. If the buildings are not full, we do not get the funding. There are different pockets of money for capital expenses as Superintendent Diane Cayen-Arnold explained at the first public meeting. The prohibitive to repair (PTR) dollar amounts are not yet available from the Ministry. We do not know if we can get the funds for a new building. In the meantime, we have to put together a plan of how we will address excess space.

Q. When will that be? How can decisions be made without that information?

A. New funding announcements are being rolled out by the Ministry of Education. Until we know more, decisions must be made with what we know today. We are diligently requesting this information.

Q. How did the new school in the Valley come about?

A. The population growth was more vibrant and these were some of our older, most challenging buildings.

Q. Lively District S.S. has the tech program. Can the trades, coop placements be promoted by approaching trade unions to help with the cost of setting up these programs? (Lindy Agnello, George Vanier)

A. Co-op education is continuing to grow. Lively District S.S. and Lockerby offer the Specialist High Skills Major in mining program and we have many partnerships with the trades industry. Pathways for trades are there. An electrical program is being developed at Lively District S.S.

Q. On the slide showing the map, where do the 40 new students come from? (Linda Rogers, Jessie Hamilton P.S.)

A. The proposed boundary change from Jessie Hamilton would increase capacity at R.H. Murray. A map has been posted to the website providing a clearer image of the proposed boundary change.

Q. Is the son of the ARC member whose son comes to Lively bussed here?

A. Yes

Q. How do they know if the kids going to the magnet schools are really in these special programs?

A. They have to be in these programs to qualify for transportation.

Q. Grade 7 and 8 students need to be the “big kids” and help the little ones in elementary school.

A. We appreciate your input.

Q. Will there be a physical barrier if young kids are integrated into the high school? (G. Sheild, Jessie Hamilton P.S.)

A. Yes. (For example, the Grade 7 and 8 students introduced into Chelmsford Valley District Composite School)

Q. How will they share facilities such as the gym?

A. They could be used at separate times. We will be looking at how other schools have made this work.

Q. What is the capacity at Lockerby and Lo-Ellen?

A. They are both over 80 per cent capacity.

Q. Could the boundary be changed to increase capacity at Lively District S.S. but capturing some of the Lo-Ellen and Lockerby students?

A. ARC is only looking at Sudbury West.

Superintendent Dye thanked Paul Giommi for facilitating the question and answer period.

6. Next public meeting: Public input on options developed by the Committee

Superintendent Lesleigh Dye advised that the next Public Meeting would take place on Wednesday, October 17, 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 fourth Public Meeting. There will be an opportunity for public presentations from the community at large (maximum 10 minutes in length). As with the second public meeting, those wishing to make a presentation are asked to request this by email at accommodation@rainbowschools.ca.

Copies of the slides that were presented from the City of Greater Sudbury and ARC and the agenda were distributed prior to the meeting. These documents, as well as the minutes of the meeting, including answers to questions tabled from the floor, are available online at rainbowschools.ca/boardroom/accommodation/SudburyWest

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Important Dates

By November 12, 2007

The Accommodation Review Committee submits a written School Valuation Report to the Board's Administrative Council that includes findings and recommendations.

Monday, November 19, 2007

Administrative Council reviews the report and prepares Administrative Council recommendations.

Monday, December 17, 2007

Board Meeting

Administrative Council presents the Accommodation Review Committee School Valuation Report to the Board and the Administrative Council report to the Board.

Monday, January 21, 2008

Board Meeting

The Board will hear public presentations related to the School Valuation. Public presentations will be made in accordance with the bylaws of the Board.

Monday, January 28, 2008

Administrative Council will prepare a follow-up report to the Board based on public input.

Monday, February 18, 2008

Board Meeting

A final decision will be made regarding accommodation.

Note:

Presentations at Board Meetings must be made in accordance with Board by-laws. Information is available online at the following link:

<http://www.rainbowschools.ca/boardroom/delegations.php>

Delegations

Rainbow District School Board welcomes delegations to the Board in accordance with section 4.14 of the Board's Governance By-Laws:

4.14.01 A person or delegation wishing to appear before or present a brief to the Board or a Committee shall apply in writing. The application shall state the matter on which the submission is to be made, the organization or interested parties to be represented, and the authority of the spokesperson. Not more than two persons may be designated spokespersons.

4.14.02 A copy of the brief must be provided to the Secretary of the Board at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting. This rule may be suspended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at the meeting at which the person or delegation wishes to be heard, if in the opinion of the Chairperson and the Director, an extreme time constraint is involved.

4.14.03 For valid reasons, any persons or delegations may be denied the right to appear before the Board by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Board present at a duly constituted meeting.

4.14.04 The presenter is reminded that the written brief has been included as back-up material in the agenda for the meeting. Therefore, trustees will have read the brief. The presenters of the brief may speak to the trustees for approximately 10 minutes in order to summarize the pertinent points in the brief and to outline the solution/action, which is requested. They should then be prepared to receive questions for clarification from the trustees.

4.14.05 The Board's response, when requested, will be made through the Secretary in writing at a later date, after the trustees have had the opportunity to discuss the matter and arrive at a decision.

For more information, please email us or phone 705.674.3171, ext. 7254.