



**Accommodation Review Committee
Public Meeting No. 4
Public Input on options developed by the Committee
Warren Central Public School
Tuesday, October 16, 2007
7:00 pm to 7:55 pm**

MINUTES

Present:

Board Trustees - Doreen Dewar, Trustee; **Jeanna Miller**, Trustee; **Gord Santala**, Trustee; **Ruth Ward**, Trustee

ARC Members - Norm Blaseg, Superintendent, Rainbow District School Board; **Kathy Wachnuk**, Principal, Warren Central Public School; **Maureen Andersen**, Teacher, Warren Central Public School; **Pamela Munro**, Chair, School Council, Warren Central Public School; **Janet Johnson**, School Council, Warren Central Public School; **Jocelyn Guenette**, business representative, Caisse Populaire de Verner-Warren; **Jean-Marc Chayer** Mayor, Municipality of Markstay-Warren

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

Board Office – Heather Thirkill, Recording Secretary, Rainbow District School Board; **Nicole Charette**, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning, Rainbow District School Board

Regrets: Dena Morrison, Chair; **Judy Hunda**, Vice-Chair; **Grace Fox**, Trustee; **Larry Killens**, Trustee; **Tyler Campbell**, Trustee; **Sharon Speir**, Superintendent; **Lesleigh Dye**, Superintendent

1. Welcome

Superintendent Norm Blaseg welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Administrative Council, Trustees and members of the Accommodation Review Committee were introduced.

The agenda was reviewed.

Superintendent Blaseg discussed the School Valuation Framework (value to the student, value to the community, value to the school board, value to the local economy).

Superintendent Blaseg reminded the audience of the two guiding principles – *to ensure that all students continue to have access to the best programming possible in quality school facilities and to reduce surplus space.*

The purpose of tonight's public meeting is to share public input on options developed by the Accommodation Review Committee. There are four options to be considered this evening.

Superintendent Blaseg indicated that there were "Request for Public Input" sheets available at the door for anyone who would like to write down their recommendation(s). Written submissions will be accepted until Thursday, October 18, 2007. (Please forward to Superintendent Blaseg's office).

2. Review of the four options (presented in the following order - B, A, C, D)

Option A involves students remaining at Warren Central Public School, the inclusion of Hagar and Warren boundaries and the addition of Grades 4 to 6 (phased in over the next three years).

Option B involves students remaining at Warren Central Public School, the introduction of Grades 4 to 6 (phased in over three years), the inclusion of Hagar in Warren boundaries and the introduction of French Immersion, creating a dual track school beginning in JK (to be phased in over eight years).

Option C – If Warren Central Public School were to close, a recommendation would be to negotiate with Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Nouvel-Ontario (Separate French School Board) to co-locate with École St. Thomas.

Option D is more of a statement than an option. In the event that the students of Warren Central Public School were to move to another location, a recommendation would be to donate Warren Central Public School to the municipality.

3. Presentations

Lynn Post *Closing Warren Public School is not an option for me. I believe we should do whatever it takes to keep this school open.*

I agree with the options presented to us at the last meeting. Students should remain at Warren Public School, Grades 4, 5 and 6 should be reintroduced and the boundaries for the school should be extended to increase our numbers attending the school. French Immersion would also be a good option for increasing the numbers. I also believe that the costs of repairs to this school could be less costly than presented to us and could be phased in over a longer period of time. As a last resort, I agree with relocating our school in the St. Thomas school in Warren.

I know the numbers are low here and we are a small school but that is why we live in a rural community like Warren. We live here so we can raise our children in a small, friendly and safe community where they can go to a great school close to home without long bus rides. Here they get more one-on-one attention from the teachers than they would ever get at a bigger school and the education is tailored to suit the needs of each of the students. Students do not fall through the cracks here. Being in a small school doesn't mean we are less important – it is the opposite. Give our rural communities a chance to survive by keeping vital components alive like our school.

I want the board to look into their hearts and not their wallets to see how valuable this school is to our children and to our community. We are asking you, the school board, as a community and as parents, to please keep Warren Public School open. I would also like to thank the members of the Accommodation Review Committee for fighting for our school. It is a worthy cause.

Donna Smith *First of all, I would like to thank the ARC members and the Rainbow District School Board representatives for all of their time and tireless efforts interpreting their data and making this an open process to the community. Thank you especially to Mayor Chayer and Mr. Guenette for making the time to attend these meetings. Thank you also to all the faithful community members who have unfailingly attended the meetings to show their support. It has been an education for all of us.*

What may be lost in all this is that we are paying for this exercise! Our tax dollars totally support the hierarchy of education in this province. Every one of these school board representatives can thank us for their livelihood. We (and many other Ontarians who aren't even aware of what is going on here) are paying the cost of this review and we will pay for the outcome whether we like it or not! When the government makes promises to give us better education, they can only do that with the dollars they collect from us. However, we are rarely consulted when they make decisions on how they spend the money. They don't check with us before they make decisions about what school gets repairs done, the people they hire or the timelines they set. These are decisions made at a higher level. I am sure that if it was up to us, the repairs needed to bring the school up to standards could be done by community members that have an interest faster, cheaper and minus an onerous bureaucracy. For instance, the cracked

sidewalk, the depressing schoolyard playground and inside repairs. These are not big-ticket items. We see them first and just like our own houses, we wouldn't think of letting the entrance to our house be dangerous and unsightly. One thing we do well in this community is volunteer our skills and time for worthwhile causes. We are also good at partnerships. Left to us, we could probably arrange with St. Thomas school to amalgamate space over a cup of coffee.

Communities are basically the same no matter where they are located in Ontario. Community Voices, a small newspaper that is distributed locally, had on its front page last week a headline that read "parents fight school closure". I bet we all read it and saw our own thoughts and opinions in print. Same issues and concerns we have: are the Board statistics accurate? The important heritage this school has in our community. Former students now have grandchildren attending; the school has been left to deteriorate accelerating the prohibitive cost of repairing, bussing small children.

The Sudbury Star recently featured our school prominently in an article regarding Rainbow District School Board schools that are currently under review. Very emotional, but not very factual. The little box with the enrolment data is what's important to the people that will gather around the boardroom table to review recommendations and bring the gavel down on the final decisions. More than likely, those decisions won't be based on emotional outcries, they'll be based on facts. Our best hope is that the options will be given an opportunity to change the facts for Warren Public School.

When I was considering what to say tonight, what to focus on, particularly that value of smaller schools with small enrolments, my thoughts went to my Grandmother who would be 125 years old today. She went to school in a one-room school with other children from a rural farming community near Milton. In fact, that school is still there. Being in a classroom with only a few children in each grade did nothing to diminish her education. She was an astute businesswoman even when she was in her 80's.

In fact, many famous Canadians started their education in a one-room schoolhouse. Emily Carr, Kate Aiken, Norman Bethune, Premier of Canada, R.B. Bennett, William Lyon Mackenzie King – who proposed legislation making education compulsory for children and E. Cora Hind, an internationally known journalist, writer and foremost authority on agriculture. Sir John A. MacDonald who Canadian's claim as one of their own also believed in a good education. All these prominent Canadians were born in a time when schools were small and grades were taught together. These conditions did nothing to diminish their contributions to Canada and Canadians later in their lives.

Giving children a solid grounding in mathematics, science, literature and languages has nothing to do with the size of a class or school building. Who knows, Warren Public School could be the school that educates an important

scientist, or the next Prime Minister or an inventor. Or maybe in the future, schooling will be done with a virtual teacher in our own homes or building. The technology is there now. There would be no need to have numerous physical school buildings. School Boards, buildings and acquisitions could be divested. Local arena halls that sit empty all day and are maintained by the Municipality could be put to good use as computer labs with a monitor. Who knows, maybe these discussions are already being held. I am certainly not an original thinker so I am sure someone else is thinking this too. It'll still be our tax dollars.

The options that the Board presented at the last meeting, except for the last one, seem to be reasonable. I don't think for a minute that we are understanding their reasoning or objectives and I particularly don't understand how they were able to take out the Grade 4, 5 and 6's in a matter of months, when they can't come back the same way. I would guess though that if Warren area parents found out that these grades are reintroduced, they would want to move their kids back, and why wouldn't it benefit Markstay to relieve the pressure on their facilities a little?

Truthfully, I don't know why options 1 (change the boundary), 2 (return Grades 4, 5 and 6) and 3 (introduce French Immersion) couldn't be implemented at the same time. Decisions are made quickly to take services away, why can't it go that way when they are restored!

Well, I guess this is it for community input! We've had the opportunity to have our say; it's out of our hands. Now it's up to the people we've hired to decide. It's hard to be at your mercy from now on and I hope that everyone involved in the process respects this community's desire to keep this school open, restore its original mandate of being a K-8 school and continue to upgrade the educational standards by adding French Immersion in keeping with the culture of the community.

Mary-Ann Carlton If you have or had children, you should be able to relate to how I, we feel.

I have a 5-year-old son, Bobby, attending Warren Central Public School and sure hope it stays this way.

I've already had the bussing a young child experience with my daughter. Please don't put me through it again with my son. Neither Bobby nor myself can handle it.

- Stuck on a bus early in the morning
- Shipped off to another town
- Switched from one bus to another
- Harassed by older children on the bus
- Traveling a dangerous highway daily
- Then there is all the time spent on the bus.

As we heard at the last meeting, there are 17 children Grades junior kindergarten to Grade 3 living closer to Warren but shipped to Markstay because of the boundaries. Change the boundaries. Give these children less time on the bus.

For Warren Central Public School and its staff, you could not ask for a better place to start a child's education. This I know from experience. Parents are always welcome at Warren Central Public School, making it easier for children beginning their education. I am at the school daily and see the progress the children make. Smaller class size means children get the attention they need and deserve. The children bond with each other, creating friendships that will likely last a lifetime. The parents and staff also become friends. Everybody has respect for one another. You don't have the bullies like in larger schools because problems are noticed and dealt with right away.

When I put Bobby into Warren Central Public School last September 2006, he was very shy and frightened. Now he is confident and outgoing. He comes home daily with new things to tell me that he has learned. He loves his teachers, especially Mrs. Andersen. Bobby says she is part of our family.

Bobby talks about Miss Pam and the rest of the library staff; they have been a part of Bobby's life before he started school. He thinks they are pretty great.

Bobby loves to go to the office to see Ms. Bobbi-Lyn, the secretary, when he is the leader of the day.

Then there is Mrs. Flood; she's really nice. "Always there to clean up our little messes," Bobby says. He tells me he wipes his shoes extra well at school. Too bad he doesn't at home.

I am sure we would not have this close bond in another school.

I don't know what else to say except PLEASE keep our children in Warren.

Virginia (Ginny) Carlton *My five-year-old brother Bobby is a student at Warren Central Public School. I really hope it stays that way. It is a good learning environment close to home.*

I am someone who knows what it is like to be stuck on a bus and shipped to another town at a young age. It was not a good experience.

I had to be up and on the bus early in the morning. I would often fall asleep. The older children teased me about this. The older kids on the bus spoke profanity, sex, drugs, etc. around me. They would push me, trip me, and sit on me. They would go through my backpack and sometimes hide their cigarettes in it.

Would you want your kid to go through this? Please don't make my five-year-old brother go through this, and the other children in his school.

Angela Lavalley *My name is Angela Lavalley. I attended this school from 1980 until 1988. When I was in Grade 5, a decision was made to get rid of Grades 7 and 8. So when I graduated Grade 6, I had to hop on a high school bus and ride for 80 minutes plus each day to further my education. So this meant getting up early in the morning and coming home just in time for supper. I was so tired at night that I didn't even feel like doing my homework. And riding the bus with older kids was not an easy feeling (so imagine being 4 or 5-years-old).*

I am talking about my daughter. She started school this year and I was dreading her first day. My baby was going out into this world on her own for the first time without me. What if she was scared? What if she needed me? I was fighting back tears before the bus picked her up and I cried all day! But ...

It ended that day because I was put at ease. By the teachers, the secretary (who hugged me when I broke down to her that day!), our lunch lady and even the school custodian. I have called just about every day since she's started school to see how things are going. The staff at this school have gone above and beyond to check on my child, answer any questions I have had (and there have been many) and they have even called me out of the blue to say she's doing fine. Tell me what other school does this? I have talked to friends and family that have kids in other schools and we have compared notes. Their schools are nothing like ours.

As of today, my daughter has attended school for 15 days (doesn't sound like much but....). She has learned so much in such a short period of time. Now I know this school doesn't offer a gymnasium with a basketball court and a volleyball net, etc. and a computer lab filled with computers and all the "big things" that other schools offer. But here she doesn't have a classroom filled with 30 kids. She has a great teacher who has the time for her and her classmates. The time to teach them what they need to learn and the time to let them be kids. My daughter is already starting to read, she has made some friends, she is a computer whiz and she gets plenty of physical education. And if you ask her what she loves most about Warren Central Public School, her school, she will tell you how much fun she has and about all her new friends she has made, which is everyone. I have also made new friends at this school with the staff and parents and I am a member of the School Council. (I hope my first year is not my last!)

Enrolment may not be so high in this school but the heart is overwhelming. We are a family here! The teachers have the time to teach! Everyone looks out for each other and any problems that may arise are dealt with immediately.

We need this school to remain open. If you close the doors on this school, you will be closing bigger doors in this town. Not only on these precious kids, their wonderful teachers and the rest of the staff here, but any English speaking families won't move to Warren if they need to ship their kids out of town – and will the families already here that planned to send their kids to this school in the future move away? What will this do to our local businesses? We are trying to build this town up, not tear it down!

I am begging you as a parent of a four and a half year old to please vote to keep this school open. Don't force me to keep her home because I will not ship her on a bus out of town at that age (right now her bus ride is two minutes). I live in this town because I want to. I've lived here my entire life and this is where I want to raise my family. And I choose to send Abbi to this school because this is where I want her to go. How would you feel if this was happening to your child or grandchild? What would you do?

Please vote to change the boundaries, bring back our Grades 4, 5, 6 and introduce French Immersion. We know the enrolment will be a lot higher if you do this. Give our kids a chance, so they can be a little older and more prepared before they have to venture out any further into this crazy world.

In closing, I find it very ironic – I was dreading my daughter's first day of school, now I am dreading "the final decision". Will she make it to senior kindergarten at Warren Central Public School? She is in school now and loving it. Let's keep it this way. I want to be her parent, not her teacher.

Pam Munro *Good evening to everyone here. I truly want to thank the public who has shown their support in wanting to keep Warren Central Public School open. I also thank the Board of Trustees for coming to all the meetings with open minds.*

We are all aware the school building needs work and there are low student numbers. Nobody argues those facts. However, one would ask, "why has this building not been maintained? Why year after year has the list of necessary repairs been left to accumulate?" The taxpayers have continued to pay year after year for school education and we ask, "Where is our money going?"

Then we look at the low student numbers. Our children are our hopes for the future. They are the young men and women who will journey forth to fulfill many dreams and passions. Had the Board implemented French Immersion years ago when it was proposed, our numbers would be higher. We hear it is too costly to implement, but that way of thinking is short, not long-term. Only two years ago, the grades 4, 5 and 6 classes were taken away so abruptly. How I ask, can you expect to fill a classroom of 23 when our 4, 5, 6 room sits empty?

At the heart of this review are the students. What do they think about their school? What are their perceptions? I met with most of the students outside of their school day and asked them what they thought about their school and here are some of their responses:

- *I know all the kids in my school*
- *The washrooms are close to my class*
- *Miss Bobbi has tasty treats*
- *There is no bullying at this school like my last school I went to*
- *I love going on field trips in our community*
- *I like going to the library every week right in my school*
- *I like nature at my school*
- *I love gym and art*
- *My teacher is great, my teacher helps me learn*
- *I made new friends*
- *I like Miss Froot, she's nice and helps me*
- *I like big activity time with Ms. A*
- *I can walk to my school*
- *My school is fun*
- *Everyone here is my best friend*
- *I like all the staff here*
- *I learned about citizenship*
- *We raised a lot of money in our Terry Fox run for cancer (\$224.50)*

These are young students who truly love attending Warren Public. They are not students who #1 should have to be bussed outside of their home community or #2 on a busy highway with lengthy bus rides and exposed to the talks of high school students at the age of 4 to 8. Our children already grow too quickly as it is.

How does the community of Warren feel about the Public School? One week ago today, petitions were dropped off at businesses to find out if they supported keeping the public school open. In this short period, 449 signatures were received. In the town of Warren, there are approximately 500 people. If Warren Public were at the polls last week, we would be celebrating our win right now!

Note: Petition was forwarded to H. Thirkill at the Board Office.

I urge you to bring back our 4, 5, and 6. However, I don't feel it should have to be phased over three years when it was so easy to take all three out at one time; extend the Hagar-Warren boundaries; introduce French Immersion, not dual track but first year JK/SK then Grade 1/2/3 and then Grade 4/5/6; repair the school building, each and every child has the right to attend a safe school. All of these suggestions would increase the capacity. As for best programming, no this school doesn't have state of the art technology, but many of us graduated from Warren Central Public School and have successful careers. Perhaps because we were instilled with morals and values. With smaller class sizes, the teachers

are able to be instrumental in taking extra time with students who need it. So I would argue I didn't need a full size gymnasium at the public school level to go on to play sports at high school and now at an adult level.

After all has been said, should the decision be made to close this school which has been operational for more than six decades, I would urge you to seriously consult with St. Thomas and hope because that is all we can do, that their Board of Trustees would be open to allowing us to lease their empty space and put our public school in their building. We are a bilingual community and should function as such. English can learn from French as French can learn from English. As children, they do not see one another as different, but find likeness within others. These children live in this community and have a right to attend in their home community.

I urge you to keep Warren Central Public School open. Please save our school!! Thank you.

Superintendent Blaseg asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Please note: The following written submission was received by email on Wednesday, October 17, 2007

*Marilyn Lubbock and Richard Dean
189 Therrien Road
Warren ON
POH 2N0
705-967-0061
marilyn.rick@true802.ca*

I attended the meeting last night, and would like to add my input re: Warren's closure.

Our daughters attended Warren Public School from junior kindergarten to Grade 6, they then moved on to Markstay Public School for Grades 7 and 8, and are now attending Lockerby Composite School in Grades 10 and 12. I believe it was seven years ago, when Warren last went through this closure process and our children were attending the school at that time, we were also involved in many school meetings.

Our children had a great education experience at Warren Public School.

They experienced a very short bus ride of 15 minutes per day for eight years. They then moved on to Markstay Public School, where they traveled a total of

two hours a day for two years. Now they are on the bus for a total of over three hours a day and this will continue for a total of four years. The bus ride is now very long and I would not have wanted to see them go through it for all of their schooling.

The school was close and convenient to home, we were always welcome, and we played a big role volunteering and being involved in our children's education. Once they moved to Markstay, since it was further away and a much larger school, our involvement did decrease. Now that they are in high school, we attend functions and provide rides for extra activities only.

Even though our daughters had a multi-class education, it was one of the best. We believe their successes today are due to their strong influences at Warren Public School. They graduated from Markstay at the top of their class, side by side with the other Warren graduates. They have always given a helping hand in the school and community and get along with all ages, younger or older. They have no problem trying out and joining school athletics even though they grew up without a gymnasium.

After listening to the options last night, we support Warren Public School staying open. It is a great idea to increase bussing boundaries; it looks like the other school boards in the area have already done this. Grade 4, 5, 6 should come back. Why did they leave in the first place and no public meeting was involved for that? French Immersion is a wonderful idea, which should have been done many years ago and would definitely increase enrolment in our area.

Being taxpayers and highly involved in our community, the closure of Warren Public School would strongly impact us in a negative way. We are English speaking citizens and are not originally from this area. Without Warren Public School, we would not have moved to this town and believe others will feel the same way in the future!

We thank all that have put many hours to this cause and hope it comes out in a positive manner.

Please note: the following written submission was received by fax on Thursday, October 18, 2007 from Connie-Lyn Young.

My son, Connor, goes to Warren Public School. Every morning he says, "I don't want to go to school". But, as soon as he's out the door, he runs to school with smiles, excited to interact with everyone there. He loves his teacher Miss Camille. They learn a lot.

I also have a daughter who went to Warren Public School, but is now attending Markstay Public School. She's in Grade 5. She tells me quite often that she misses the Warren School and all the one-on-one attention she received there.

Connor used to take the school bus when he was in JK. Older children were always bullying him. One day, my son had enough of being bullied and pushed the child, in two separate incidents. My son had a warning that if he misbehaved one more time, he'd be suspended off the bus. A four year old being suspended! Why? Because of older kids not listening to the bus driver.

Now, let's talk about Hwy 17. I, being a member of the first response for 15 years and the Markstay-Warren Fire Department for three years, I've seen my fair share of accidents. It's no joke. Vehicles literally being crushed into a sandwich. Unrecognizable of what kind of vehicle it is. So, here I am on an accident scene, taking a deep breath, saying to myself "please don't let there be a child in there." Then, you hear screaming, moaning or sometimes nothing. You look in the vehicle, and there it is. A family destroyed. Their child lying there, lifeless. You do what you can, but it's not easy. Sometimes, there's someone who died on impact but he's trapped. Therefore, the fire department has to sometimes wait for hours to extricate him or her because the police have to finish their investigation. You can just imagine the smell at 30 degrees Celsius. Not to mention, sometimes, missing limbs. We have a school in our community, let's keep it that way. Why send our precious cargo in a bus on Hwy 17, when someday, God forbid, the Markstay-Warren fire department will have to respond to a bus accident.

I've sent a picture of three accident scenes that the fire department responded to in 2006 where extrication was required, not to mention all the other accidents that Warren First Response went to where there was no extrication required but had severe injuries. Out of the three accidents seen there, there were 11 deaths, two were children.

It would be a shame to see the Warren Public School close. Please have an open mind and heart. Thank you

Jean Hanson, Director of Education, thanked the community of Warren for welcoming Rainbow District School Board administration and trustees to the public meetings. Director Hanson recognized that this is not an easy process for anyone involved. Director Hanson asked if anyone in the audience had approached St. Thomas or their trustees about co-locating? No response.

Director Hanson directed a question to Mayor Jean-Marc Chayer: Does the municipality have a use for this school if the students were to co-locate at St. Thomas?

Mayor Chayer responded: The municipality would take a look at this option for sure. If the building truly needs \$1.3 million in repairs, are they still interested? He is sure that a use could be found for the building. The question is: Is it worth fixing up the building for \$1.3 million or should a new building be considered? The municipality will have to take a close look at the costs involved.

Superintendent Blaseg asked if there were any questions or comments.

Jean-Marc Chayer, the Mayor for the Municipality of Markstay-Warren had a few closing comments. Mayor Chayer begged the board to keep the school open – status quo. Warren Central Public School is a part of the community. St. Thomas is staying open no matter what the enrolment, why can't Rainbow District School Board do the same? Dalton McGuinty mentioned before the election that there would be no school closures and that the Liberals would be helping rural schools. We need his help. If status quo is not an option, we need to approach St. Thomas and merge the two schools: one building and two schools. Trustee Laking spoke about merging the schools 15 years ago. People in Warren do everything together. Sharing a school would work. Please help. You have the power. Thank you.

Superintendent Blaseg asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Next steps

Accommodation Review Committee members will be meeting shortly to review submissions from tonight's meeting. Other important dates were reviewed.

Important dates:

By November 12, 2007 - ARC submits a written 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 report to the Board and the Administrative Council recommendations 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.

Tuesday, February 19, 2008, Board Meeting - A final decision will be made regarding accommodation. (Please note: Monday, February 18, 2008 has been designated Family Day.)

Superintendent Blaseg thanked everyone for attending the fourth Public Meeting. He recognized that this has been a very emotional evening. Thank you.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

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.

Those in attendance were reminded that the minutes of the meeting will be posted on the Board's website (rainbowschools.ca).