



**Accommodation Review Committee
Wembley Public School
Public Meeting No. 3
Wednesday, May 7, 2008
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**

MINUTES

Present:

Board Trustees: Judy Hunda, Chair; **Tyler Campbell**, Vice-Chair; **Larry Killens**, Trustee; **Doreen Dewar**, Trustee; **Dena Morrison**, 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; **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 third public meeting of the Accommodation Review Committee for Wembley Public School. Superintendent Law indicated that the following documents were available – the agenda, the “It Begins With You” overview, the Data Report presented March 5th and the School Valuation Framework. Everyone was reminded to sign the attendance sheets at the door.

Superintendent Law indicated that Rainbow District School Board established an Accommodation Review Committee to oversee the review of Wembley Public School. The committee is seeking public input on the accommodation of students.

Superintendent Law introduced the Accommodation Review Committee members.

Superintendent Law referred the audience to page 2 of the “It Begins With You” document for the mandate of the Committee.

Superintendent Law reviewed the mandate slide of the PowerPoint presentation - that 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.

Superintendent Law referred to the slide re: the Guiding Principle:

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

Superintendent Law introduced members of the Board’s Administrative Council.

Superintendent Law introduced Board Trustees. Trustees will consider public input and review the reports from the Accommodation Review Committee and the Administrative Council with respect to Wembley Public School.

Superintendent Law introduced Rae Tolonen, Recording Secretary, and Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning.

Superintendent Law told the audience that the purpose of the third public meeting is to present the options developed by the ARC. Superintendent Law told the audience that there will be a brief Question and Answer period following the presentation.

Background

As stated at the first public meeting, Wembley Public School is an aging facility. Today, it is the Board’s school in need of the most repairs.

In the 2003-2004 school year, the Ministry of Education identified Wembley Public School as Prohibitive To Repair, yet the school did not qualify for Ministry funding because the Board had excess pupil places in schools within an 8 km radius. At the annual Accommodation meeting held on December 10th, 2007, the Board established an Accommodation Review Committee for Wembley Public School. Information has been provided to the public through news releases, letters from the school, and public meetings.

In looking at the options for Wembley Public School, an aging structure, a number of factors were 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, were also considered.

The ARC will make recommendations to the Board's Administrative Council regarding options for the facility. 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 with accommodation reviews. The Board is looking 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 reminded the audience that page 4 of the "It Begins With You" handout at the door outlines the timelines and schedule of public meetings.

Superintendent Law indicated that parents/guardians and the community at large have the opportunity to receive updates on the committee's work and provide input at four public meetings as the consultative process unfolds.

Superintendent Law pointed out that the ARC has developed priorities for an ideal option. The committee shared the process and priorities at Public Meeting No. 2. These priorities were used to help the committee determine options of higher importance.

Presentation of Options – Renee McCormick/Adria Wereszczynsky

Superintendent Law told the audience that the committee discussed and considered many options and that they would like to share the strengths and weaknesses of the various options considered. Superintendent Law called upon Renee McCormick and Adria Wereszczynsky to make the presentation of options to date.

Superintendent Law thanked Renee and Adria for their presentation (which is posted on rainbowschools.ca)

Superintendent Law indicated that the agenda was designed to allow for presentations. An opportunity to make presentations will remain as a standing item on future agendas. At this point we have one request.

6. Presentations from the public

Margaret Sun, a member of the community at large, made a presentation entitled “Wembley’s Repairs: A Challenge to Community Stakeholders and the Construction Trades in Working Towards Goals of Educated Workforce and Safe and Healthy Schools”. The presentation has been posted on rainbowschools.ca.

7. Questions and Answers

Q – Leona Redden, parent

If Wembley closes, will that not create new boundaries? Will new boundaries not affect students at other schools?

A – Superintendent Law

The preferred option presented by the ARC is an addition to Princess Anne Public School. This would only affect people on the perimeter of the boundary.

Q – Leona Redden, parent

Could a student from Wembley go to MacLeod Public School?

A – Superintendent Law

It is not our intent to put additional students at MacLeod.

A - Adria Wereszczynsky, ARC member

Sending students from Wembley to MacLeod is not a viable option because there is no space at MacLeod. The committee also did not want to split up the students, preferring to maintain Wembley’s school community.

Q – Leona Redden, parent

If the Board cannot obtain sufficient funds to accommodate all Wembley students at the Princess Anne addition, an option could be to move the Grade 7 and 8 students to another location (for instance, Copper Cliff or Lansdowne).

Q – Jean Hanson, Director of Education

Director Hanson thanked the presenters. She indicated that this reflected hours upon hours of thoughtful work and the options were appreciated. She also thanked Margaret Sun for her presentation and concurred that a school is more than “bricks and mortar”, that a school was about caring students and staff. She indicated that the Board is committed to building a rich learning community for the future. She said the Board has consolidated a number of schools in the system. Once schools are consolidated, although rich memories of the past remain, schools begin to build a new school community.

Q - Adria Wereszczynsky, ARC member

Adria asked to make a statement as a parent. She indicated that she had discussed the options with her son, a Grade 4 student at Wembley. She concluded that it's not the building that students are in that makes a difference, it's the school community. She said her son is happy to go to any school as long as the school community goes with him. She added that her son thought it was wonderful to build a new school. While she attended Wembley Public School, she said this was about generations to come and a brighter future.

Q – Margaret Sun, community member

Margaret Sun wanted to correct a misconception about her comment related to “bricks and mortar”. She indicated that neighbourhood schools are the best because students/parents have a stake in the community. They are “the heart” of the school. Big and new is not always better. Schools can last hundreds of years. They have a sense of history.

Q - Kirk Dopson, parent

What is the procedure? Does the committee put forward its preferred model only? Do we go with one option, or is there a fall back option? Realistically, should we have more options?

A – Superintendent Law

Superintendent Law indicated that the Committee was examining a number of options and will get more input at the next public meeting. The options will then be further refined for presentation to Admin Council, then the Board. Admin Council will also present its recommendations to the Board.

A – Diane Cayen-Arnold, Superintendent of Business

Superintendent Cayen-Arnold indicated that options are dependent on Ministry funding. This helps to determine what is most viable.

Q – Kirk Dobson, parent

Can we realistically expect to get the money?

A – Jean Hanson, Director of Education

Only one accommodation review process has been completed to date – for Sudbury West Area Schools. She indicated that the Ministry will give the Board a general sense of available dollars when the Administrative Council forwards recommendations to the Board. Recommendations from Admin will be based on their “best guess” for what the Ministry will likely provide in funding. If this proves wrong, Admin Council would go back to the drawing board and bring an alternative suggestion to the community.

Q – Doug Nadorozny, parent

Doug Nadorozny made a comment as a parent. Why Wembley and not Alexander? It will cost \$4.2 million to bring Wembley up to standard. Are the costs of all other options much less than this? Is this really the right thing to do given the costs versus the gains? He believes “building new” will be a very expensive option.

Q – Melissa Pitfield, parent

Melissa spoke as a parent and as the Director of Childcare for the YMCA. She was concerned that the ASD and Lifeskills classes were not mentioned in the options that were presented. She indicated that when autistic students are moved to a new location it's a massive change for them. She urged the committee to keep these groups in mind and include them in all plans. She also asked what would happen to the childcare program. What if another school has a different service provider? She said it's important that connections between families and the YMCA not be lost. She hopes the committee will take this into consideration.

A – Superintendent Fred Law

Superintendent Law said childcare will be looked at. He indicated that Princess Anne Public School has an ASD program, one of the strengths of the Princess Anne option. He added that social inclusiveness was an important part of the Wembley school community.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Superintendent Law thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He also reminded the audience of Public Meeting No. 4 on Monday, June 16, 2008. He indicated that agendas and minutes will be posted on the Board's website – rainbowschools.ca

Next Public Meeting

Public Meeting No. 4

Monday, June 16, 2008

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Wembley Public School Gymnasium