



Pupil Accommodation Reviews Transition Committees

Date: April 27, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

West Lynn Public School

Achievement

Environment

Engagement

Transition Committees

- From Grand Erie Policy FT9 – Transition Committees:

The Grand Erie District School Board believes that community input is essential to the successful completion of school reorganization and construction projects.



Growing Excellence... Inspiring Success

Transition Committees

- **Committee Membership:**
 - Principals of the schools involved
 - One Trustee
 - Family of Schools Superintendent – Chairs the committee
 - One School Council rep from each of the schools involved in the transition
 - One teacher from each school involved in the transition
 - Additional members as the Chair of the Committee or the committee deems appropriate



Growing Excellence... Inspiring Success

Transition Committees

- **Committee Tasks:**
 - Determine disposition of furniture and equipment
 - Provide input and advice regarding the transition process as students prepare to change schools
 - Provide advice with regard to appropriate closing/opening ceremonies
 - In the case of new school or consolidation of schools, conduct a school naming process in accordance with Board Policy FT3, if directed by the Board



Growing Excellence... Inspiring Success

A Principal's Experience

Charlotte Morphet

Thompson Creek Elementary School



Growing Excellence... Inspiring Success

Transitions

- The Haldimand East Elementary Schools have gone through two ARC processes since 2011. The ARC process is an emotional journey for all involved. The first ARC decision was made in June 2011, to close Dunnville Central Public School and have students go to Thompson Creek Elementary school for the start of the following September, 2012.



Growing Excellence... Inspiring Success

Transitions – Shared Activities

- This plan included opportunities for students to get to know each other; staff members to work together, for families to come together and for community partners to be included in the decision making.
- Some events included:
 - Family Math Night (winter 2012)
 - Public Speaker – Sadait (early spring 2012)
 - Outdoor Games Day (late spring 2012)
 - Joint class trips (April/May/June 2012)
 - Joint sports teams (through year)
 - Joint School Council Meetings
 - Joint Staff Meetings
 - Joint end of year celebration swim and BBQ at Lions Park



Growing Excellence... Inspiring Success

Transitions – Planning Together

Other meetings involved:

- Transportation
- Community Partners (being relocated)
- Archiving school's treasures (paintings, trophies)
- Celebration of School closing coincided with annual Mudcat Festival



Growing Excellence... Inspiring Success

Transitions – Lessons Learned

- Continue with joint opportunities for students, families and staff to get acquainted.
- Continue to honour traditions held sacred at closing school and incorporate into ‘new school.’
- Create an opportunity for students to spend the day at the new school (bells, washrooms, doors to playground or buses) before the official start.
- Perhaps create a better plan for transfer of the furniture, books and supplies.



Growing Excellence... Inspiring Success

Transitions – Closing Thoughts

- It has been four years since we merged, and while this was very emotional for some in the beginning, overall, the experience was truly a positive one, thanks to the involvement of all stakeholders.
- This ARC process actually made Thompson Creek Elementary School an even better place to learn for many reasons, but the one thing that stands out is that now, every student has a friend due to the larger number of students to choose from.



Growing Excellence... Inspiring Success