



Haldimand East Elementary Schools Accommodation Review Committee

November 17, 2015 – 7:00 PM
Anna Melick Memorial School - Gymnasium

MEETING NOTES

In Attendance:

Brian Doyle (Chair)—Trustee, **James Richardson**—Trustee, **Linda De Vos**—Superintendent of Education, **Dave Peters**—ETFO, **Deborah Warner**—Principal, Anna Melick Memorial School, **Marion Kline**—Principal, Fairview Avenue Public School, **David Gervais**—Principal, Grandview Central Public School, **Julie White**—Principal, J.L. Mitchener Public School, **Alison Cooke**—Principal, Rainham Central School, **Charlotte Morphet**—Principal, Thompson Creek Elementary School, **Anthony Van Hell**—Parent Representative, Anna Melick Memorial School, **Danielle Lipson**—Parent Representative, Fairview Avenue Public School, **Mike Black**—Parent Representative, Grandview Central Public School, **Melony Cooper**—Parent Representative, Rainham Central School, **Jen Smith**—Parent Representative, J.L. Mitchener Public School, **Cara Dorland**—Parent Representative, Thompson Creek Elementary School, **Bernie Corbett**, Municipal Councillor, Haldimand County.

Absent/Regrets:

Mark Gibson—Cayuga and District Chamber of Commerce, **Nancy Hondula**—CUPE.

1. Welcome and Introductions

B. Doyle, Chair of the Committee, welcomed members and those present in the audience to the sixth meeting of the Haldimand East Elementary Accommodation Review Committee.

Other Board members present: Carol Ann Sloat—Chair of the Board.

Brenda Blancher, Director of Education, and Grand Erie District School Board administrative staff: Jamie Gunn—Superintendent of Business, Shawn McKillop—Manager of Communications and Community Relations, Michelle O'Reilly—Planning Officer, and Elaine Roberts—Recording Secretary were in attendance to provide resource to the Committee.

1.1 Committee Membership Update

Committee Chair, Brian Doyle announced and welcomed Anthony Van Hell as the new Parent Representative on the Committee for Anna Melick M.S.

1.2 Purpose and Process of Meeting

Chair Doyle provided a brief review of the steps in the process which have taken place to date and gave an overview of the purpose and process of tonight's meeting. The first meeting was held on March 11, 2015. This is the sixth meeting in the process. Eleven proposed options were presented and considered at the meeting on September 24, 2015 and narrowed down by the committee to include Options 3, 7, 9, 10, 10B and 11. An additional option, Option 12, was proposed at the Delegation meeting on October 29,

2015 and an analysis of capacity and enrolment for this option will be presented this evening.

The Committee will consider and discuss the remaining options which with the goal of narrowing down the options and working towards identifying a recommendation to go forward to the Board of Trustees.

2. Presentation of Data Analysis of Option 12

J. Gunn presented the enrolment and capacity figures for this new option proposed at the Delegation Meeting on October 29, 2015.

Option 12: Close Fairview Avenue P.S.
and Accommodate all Fairview Avenue students at the Thompson Creek site
Resulting utilization (excluding portables) (5 yrs. – 89.4%, 10 yrs. – 88.3%)
Resulting utilization (including portables) (5 yrs. – 76.5%, 10 yrs. – 75.6%)

3. ARC Committee Discussion of Options

The following options were reviewed and discussed:

Option 3: Close Anna Melick M.S. (assign students to Thompson Creek E.S.)
and Close Grandview Central P.S. (assign students to Fairview Avenue P.S.)
Resulting utilization (excluding portables) (5 yrs. – 91.6%, 10 yrs. – 90.4%)
Resulting utilization (including portables) (5 yrs. – 83.9%, 10 yrs. – 82.8%)*

Option 7: Close Fairview Avenue P.S.
(enrolment split across three schools: Anna Melick M.S., Grandview Central P.S.
and Thompson Creek E.S.)
Resulting utilization (excluding portables) (5 yrs. – 89.4%, 10 yrs. – 88.3%)
Resulting utilization (including portables) (5 yrs. – 84.3%, 10 yrs. – 83.3%)*

Option 9: Close Anna Melick M.S.
(enrolment split across three schools: Fairview Avenue P.S., Grandview
Central P.S. and J.L. Mitchener P.S.)
and Close Rainham Central Public School
(assign students to Thompson Creek E.S.)
Resulting utilization (excluding portables) (5 yrs. – 96.4%, 10 yrs. – 95.2%)
Resulting utilization (including portables) (5 yrs. – 96.4%, 10 yrs. – 95.2%)*

- Option 10:** Reassign the catchment area which extends to Yaremy & Sutor Roads to
Dunnville area schools
and Remove Rainham Central P.S. and J.L. Mitchener P.S. from the review
Resulting utilization (excluding portables) (5 yrs. – 70.7%, 10 yrs. – 70.9%)
Resulting utilization (including portables) (5 yrs. – 73.4%, 10 yrs. – 73.6%)*
- Option 10B:** Close Anna Melick M.S.
Reassign Yarmey to Sutor Rd to Dunnville Schools
and Remove Rainham Central P.S. and J.L. Mitchener P.S. from the review
Resulting utilization (excluding portables) (5 yrs. – 88.6%, 10 yrs. – 88.8%)
Resulting utilization (including portables) (5 yrs. – 84.7%, 10 yrs. – 84.9%)*
- Option 11:** Close Anna Melick M.S.
and Close Grandview Central P.S.
Assign all students to a new school to be built at the Fairview Avenue P.S. site
Resulting utilization (excluding portables) (5 yrs. – 91.6%, 10 yrs. – 90.4%)
Resulting utilization (including portables) (5 yrs. – 82.8%, 10 yrs. – 81.7%)*
- Option 12:** Close Fairview Avenue P.S.
and Accommodate all Fairview Avenue students at the Thompson Creek E.S. site
Resulting utilization (excluding portables) (5 yrs. – 89.4%, 10 yrs. – 88.3%)
Resulting utilization (including portables) (5 yrs. – 76.5%, 10 yrs. – 75.6%)*

Comments and Questions from the Committee:

Q - Does Option 9 require students from Anna Melick to go to high school in Cayuga?
R - Yes, this option was drawn-up aligning secondary schools.

C - We should consider removing all options which split a current school's student population.

* Note of clarification: where analyses show resulting utilization 'including portables *', this represents either portables or additional permanent capacity.

Q - What is the target occupancy?

R - 85% to low 90% would be the ideal rate. 100% is not achievable as there are always student moves/varying enrolment.

Q - What top-up funding is still available?

R - The Ministry of Education no longer provides top-up funding for schools other than those which are a minimum of 10 kilometres away by road from any other elementary school. Rainham Central is the only school in this review area that meets this criteria.

C - Two recommendations should be made if the preferred Option is #11 which involves building a new school, in the event the Ministry turns down that proposal.

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- Q - Has the Ministry been consulted with respect to the possibility of a new school being approved?
- R - The Ministry cannot say whether or not such a request would be approved until the ARC has completed its work. They have indicated, however, that they would be supportive of a business case for a new school.
- Q - The terms of the process state that all schools involved in the ARC are to be addressed in the resolution. In a number of these options only one school is mentioned.
- R - All six schools must be addressed in the report to the Board. This means that a statement must be made concerning each school. The statement could be a recommendation to change or a recommendation for no change.
- C - At the first meeting, we said we did not wish to leave excess capacity on the table at the end of the process. Doing so could result in another review being required in the near future. Bringing Rainham Central and J. L. Mitchener into this review changed the dynamics of the review. These schools are not included in any of the options and Rainham Central will continue to be fully funded no matter what its utilization is.
- Q - Can we make changes to the options presented?
- C - If changes are made to options, they really are new options and should be considered separate from the original options.
- R - The objective of tonight's meeting is to clarify and consider the options on the table. If new options are added, we also need to remove options we do not wish to consider and work towards a recommendation to go to the Board.
- Q - If a new school was to be built as in Option 11, how long would the process take for funding to be confirmed and ground to be broken?
- R - Capital funding opens up once a year in the spring. The Ministry sets these dates. If this option is selected, a proposal would be prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Education early in the new-year. Funding announcements are generally made in the fall. Construction could commence one year from this spring – in the spring of 2017.
- Q - Until that time, would there be any changes for the involved schools?
- R - It would be status quo at all six schools until the new school opened.

The committee considered and voted on each option by a show of hands. Eight voting members were present. Consensus was determined by the majority of votes.

A proposal to add a boundary change to Option 7 was proposed and defeated.

The Committee narrowed the options to Option 10B and Option 11. A vote by secret ballot was conducted to determine the Committee's preferred option for recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

Two scrutineers were selected. Votes were tallied and announced:

The recommendations of the Haldimand East Elementary Accommodation Review Committee are:

Option 1 - THAT the Grand Erie District School Board close Anna Melick M.S. and close Grandview Central P.S. Assign all students to a new school to be built at the Fairview Avenue P.S. site and

THAT Thompson Creek E.S. remain status quo.

Option 2 - THAT the Grand Erie District School Board close Anna Melick M.S. and assign students to Thompson Creek E.S; Reassign Yarmey to Sutor Rd. to Grandview Central P.S.; Remove Rainham Central P.S. and JL Mitchener P.S. from the review.

4. Summary and Next Steps, Brenda Blancher—Director of Education

In accordance with the process, a meeting at Rainham Central is still required. A draft report of the work completed by the ARC and its recommendation to the Board of Trustees will be prepared and presented at that meeting. The Board will receive the report at a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, January 18, 2016. This is a public meeting and details of the meeting will be posted on the Grand Erie website. After receiving the report, there is a minimum of 60 days until a final decision is made. Delegations are permitted to speak to the Board. It is anticipated that the Board will make a final decision on March 28, 2016.

Members were thanked for their time and commitment while participating in the review.

5. Questions/Comments from the Community

C - Some parents may be considering sending their children to Winger P.S. or other Niagara Region schools. Please be aware that Niagara has the same requirements for funding and is also conducting accommodation reviews.

6. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held at Rainham Central Public School on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.