



Haldimand East Elementary Schools Accommodation Review Committee

September 24, 2015 – 7:00 PM
Fairview Avenue Public School

MEETING NOTES

In Attendance:

Brian Doyle (Chair)—Trustee, **James Richardson**—Trustee, **Linda De Vos**—Superintendent of Education, **Dave Peters**—ETFO, **Nancy Hondula**—CUPE, **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, **Madeleine Jobb**—Parent Representative, Anna Melick Memorial School, **Danielle Lipson**—Parent Representative, Fairview Avenue Public School, **Mike Black**—Parent Representative, Grandview Central Public School, **Jen Smith**—Parent Representative, J.L. Mitchener Public School, **Cara Dorland**—Parent Representative, Thompson Creek Elementary School, **Bernie Corbett**, Municipal Councillor, Haldimand County, **Mark Gibson**—Cayuga and District Chamber of Commerce.

Absent/Regrets:

Melony Cooper—Parent Representative, Rainham Central School.

1. Welcome and Introductions

B. Doyle, Chair of the Committee, welcomed Committee members and those present in the audience to the forth meeting of the Haldimand East Elementary Accommodation Review Committee (first meeting of the 2015-2016 school year).

Other Board members present were: Carol Ann Sloat—Chair of the Board and David Dean—Vice-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

A revised Committee membership (recommended for approval by the Grand Erie Board of Trustees on Monday, September 21, 2015) was reviewed. The updates reflect an Administrative change: Linda De Vos, Superintendent of Education—Haldimand Elementary Schools; and parent representative changes at J.L. Mitchener and Thompson Creek Public Schools.

Attendees were reminded that all information presented will be posted on the Grand Erie website at www.granderie.ca. Questions regarding the process may be submitted by email to: info@granderie.ca.

2. Where We Are – Where We Need to Go, B. Blancher

An overview of the purpose, process and status of completion of required stages of the review was provided. A large portion of the review has been completed. The ARC is currently proceeding with the community review stage, in which the Committee meets, considers options and will prepare a report for Board review and decision.

3. Presentation of Data/Information Requested

3.1 West Dunnville and Additional Development, J. Gunn

Data was provided showing the average pupil yield from additional new development in the Dunnville area based on recent information received from the municipality of Haldimand County. The identified development projects are in various stages of completion. Effects on enrolment will be staggered based on the status of the development. The total anticipated yield from these dwellings when completed is 37 pupils.

3.2 Updated Enrolment/Surplus Capacity, J. Gunn

Charts showing updated enrolment summaries and surplus capacity figures for the 10 proposed Options for consideration were reviewed and discussed.

Each summary includes statistics regarding total capacity, portable capacity, non-loaded space, enrolment shifts to other schools based on the option and resulting 5 and 10 year projected enrolment/utilization figures. Maps and 'Observations' listed for each option provide details with respect to necessary boundary changes, transportation requirements (distances and lengths of time) and displaced programs.

3.3 Transportation—Bussing Times/Costs, J. Gunn

This information was included in Item 3.2 above.

4. Discussion of Options

Option 1: Close Anna Melick M.S. (assign students to Thompson Creek E.S.)
Resulting utilization (excluding portables) (5 yrs. – 80.9%, 10 yrs. – 79.9%).
Resulting utilization (including portables) (5 yrs. – 76.7%, 10 yrs. – 75.8%).

Option 2: Close Grandview Central P.S. (assign students to Fairview Avenue P.S.)
Resulting utilization (excluding portables) (5 yrs. – 80.3%, 10 yrs. – 79.4%).
Resulting utilization (including portables) (5 yrs. – 76.2%, 10 yrs. – 75.3%).

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- 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 4: 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. and Rainham Central P.S.)
Resulting utilization (excluding portables) (5 yrs. – 91.6%, 10 yrs. – 90.4%).
Resulting utilization (including portables) (5 yrs. – 86.3%, 10 yrs. – 85.2%).
- Option 5: Close Anna Melick M.S.
and Close Grandview Central P.S.
(enrolment split across four schools: Fairview Avenue P.S., J.L. Mitchener P.S., Rainham Central P.S. and Thompson Creek E.S.)
Resulting utilization (excluding portables) (5 yrs. – 91.6%, 10 yrs. – 90.4%).
Resulting utilization (including portables) (5 yrs. – 88.8%, 10 yrs. – 87.7%).
- Option 6: Close Thompson Creek E.S.
(enrolment split across the four schools: Anna Melick M.S., Fairview Avenue P.S., Grandview Central P.S. and J.L. Mitchener P.S.)
Resulting utilization (excluding portables) (5 yrs. – 93.7%, 10 yrs. – 92.6%).
Resulting utilization (including portables) (5 yrs. – 90.9%, 10 yrs. – 89.8%).
- 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 8: Close J.L. Mitchener P.S.
(enrolment split between two schools: Rainham Central P.S. and Thompson Creek E.S.)
Resulting utilization (excluding portables) (5 yrs. – 91.9%, 10 yrs. – 90.7%).
Resulting utilization (including portables) (5 yrs. – 81.8%, 10 yrs. – 80.8%).
- 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 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 11 *New option presented for consideration of inclusion in the review (capital project request to the Ministry of Education required):*
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%).

Following review and discussion of the above options, it was agreed by consensus (individually by option) that Options 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 8 be removed from the list of those to be considered further.

Option 3, 7, 9, 10 and 11 will be further discussed and delegations will be invited to speak to these options at a Delegation Meeting (date to be selected at the end of the meeting).

Comments/Questions from Committee Members:

(C - Comment, Q - Question, R - Response)

- Q Could clarification be provided regarding the 10 kilometre rule discussed at previous meetings? Is there any other funding or information the Committee needs to be aware of in considering options?
- R Under current criteria for Ministry of Education top-up funding (funding provided to schools operating at less than full capacity) a school must be a minimum of 10 kilometres away by road from any other school--elementary or secondary. This requirement was not discussed initially as the Ministry brought this about in May of last year. Rainham P.S. is the only school in Haldimand meeting this criteria. Therefore, Rainham will continue to be adequately funded regardless of how much surplus capacity exists at the school.
- C The information presented today has not been disseminated to everyone affected by the potential decisions to be made. Is it possible to have an opportunity to share this information with parents first and receive their input before further discussion and/or eliminating options?
- R The function of an ARC is to review and receive input from those who will be affected. We don't wish to remove any options the Committee wants to explore further. It would be good however to reduce options by removing any that it is apparent will not work and to continue with more focused discussions with those which remain.
- C The Committee supports a suggestion from the audience that Option #3, and other options involving moving students to portables be further examined with the portables replaced with consideration of new construction being added to the involved school(s).
- Q In Option 11, would the new building be built on the current site of Fairview Avenue P.S.? Also, would a significant time factor be involved if this option was selected?

- R Yes, construction would be on the current site of Fairview Avenue P.S. Relocation of students would be required for some time. Staff will need to examine and report on the time factor and temporary relocation details.

5. Questions/Comments from the Audience/Community

(C - Comment, Q - Question, R - Response)

- C Audience members expressed concern regarding moving students to portables due to potential health and safety related issues, and requested that the addition/inclusion of programs for students with special needs and disability be evaluated with each option up for consideration.
- C Grandview P.S. is on the opposite side of river from the other Dunnville schools. The analysis needs to include development on that side of the river as well.
- R The development statistics provided in 3.1 are based on information received from Haldimand County and will be updated should further information be received from the County.
- C The Committee should consider selling the most attractive properties in order to receive the best financial result. Students could then be dispersed between a number of other schools avoiding having one large student population at any one school. This would allow the principal/staff a better opportunity to build relationships with students and their families.
- R Thank you for these comments and suggestions. The community will be invited to provide further comments at the Delegation Meeting. Information regarding the Delegation Meeting will be provided to all school communities by the schools and will be further advertised on the Grand Erie website and via social media outlets.
- C A number of families have moved out of Dunnville and other Haldimand communities because services have been reduced. It would be good to take advantage of, and use this opportunity, to build or combine services such as a new recreation centre or other shared facilities within any construction being built.
- Q Would the new 'super school' proposed in Option 11 have capacity to house the early years and nutrition program currently at Thompson Creek E.S? These are important programs to this community.
- R The Fairview Avenue P.S. site is quite large. Those programs and other new facilities as well as a new playground could all be evaluated in Option 11.

6. Next Meeting Date

A meeting to hear delegations will be held at Dunnville Secondary School on Thursday, October 29, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.