



Haldimand East Elementary Schools Accommodation Review Committee

March 11, 2015 – 7:00 PM
J.L. Mitchener Public School - Gymnasium

MEETING NOTES

Committee Members in Attendance:

Brian Doyle (Chair)—Trustee, **James Richardson**—Trustee, **Brenda Blancher**—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, Anna Melick Memorial School, **Danielle Lipson**—Parent, Fairview Avenue Public School, **Mike Black**—Parent, Grandview Central Public School, **Mandie Cowan**—Parent, J.L. Mitchener Public School, **Melony Cooper**—Parent, Rainham Central School, **Todd Smith**—Parent, Thompson Creek Elementary School, **Bernie Corbett**—Municipal Councillor, Haldimand County

1. Welcome and Introductions

B. Doyle, Chair of the Committee, welcomed those present to the first meeting of the Haldimand East Elementary Accommodation Review Committee (ARC). Committee members introduced themselves around the table.

Other Board members recognized as in attendance were: Carol Ann Sloat—Chair of the Board, Alex Felsky—Trustee, Karen Sandy—Trustee, and Diane Sowers--Trustee.

John Forbeck, 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.

Members of the community attending the meeting were asked to complete the sign-in sheets located at the entrance to the gymnasium. Any individual(s) seeking to appeal the review process, is required to have attended, and have signed-in documenting their attendance at the ARC meetings. A review of the Grand Erie accommodation review process may be sought through the Ministry of Education's "Administrative Review of Accommodation Review Process"--Reference: Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (revised June 2009).

2. Review of the Accommodation Process

J. Forbeck provided details regarding the process and stages of the accommodation review process to the Committee.

The purpose of this review is:

- to establish viable school organization units that support program delivery and student achievement
- to find and develop efficiencies in the use of our school buildings
- to provide appropriate accommodation for our students
- to receive input from the community
- to provide recommendations to Grand Erie regarding school organization and related pupil accommodation matters

The committee will study and make recommendations based on accommodation options for the following schools:

Anna Melick Memorial School
Fairview Avenue Public School
Grandview Central Public School
J.L. Mitchener Public School
Rainham Central School
Thompson Creek Elementary School

Stages of the review will include:

- Preparation – The Board appoints an ARC chaired by a Trustee (non-voting member) and membership from the involved schools and their school communities.
- Community Review – A minimum 90 day period (which shall not include summer vacation, winter and March breaks). A minimum of four ARC meetings will be held. All agendas are published in advance on the Grand Erie website. All meetings will be open to the public. One meeting must be held for the purpose of sharing the ARC's recommendations with the community.
- Board Review – A review of the ARC report by the Senior Administration of the Board; recommendations from Administration to the Board; review and decision by the Board.

The following items will be presented to a Committee of the Whole Board:

- school profile findings
- recommendations from the ARC
- the recommendations from Administration

The recommendation from the Committee of the Whole Board will be taken to a Regular Board meeting no earlier than 60 days from the date of the Committee of the Whole Board meeting.

The Board's Administration must share all data and options regarding the Haldimand East Elementary review area with the ARC. Grand Erie staff will bring additional information during the review, as requested by the ARC, to support their work. All information including agendas, presentations, minutes and reports will be posted on the Grand Erie website and in a central location at each of the involved schools.

Questions regarding the process should be directed to Shawn McKillop, Manager of Communications and Community Relations shawn.mckillop@granderie.ca or 1-888-548-8878 (519-756-6301) ext. 281147.

Questions regarding process were requested from the Committee.

Q - What triggered this review?

A – This will be discussed in an upcoming presentation this evening.

3. School Profile Templates

J. Forbeck explained the purpose and components of the School Profile Templates. The templates were developed by a committee of parents, community members, trustees and principals, and will provide the foundation for discussion and analysis of accommodation options.

The templates obtain and provide a baseline of comparable data for each school assessing the:

- value of the school to the student
- value of the school to the community
- value of the school to the school system
- value of the school to local economy

A profile will be completed for each school and the completed profiles will be presented at the next scheduled ARC meeting. The content of the templates was reviewed by the Committee.

Questions from Committee Regarding the Templates:

Q What is the definition of 'Community'?

A We are asking for a template from each school relating to its individual school community. 'Community' does not related solely to a location, area or County as a whole.

4. Background Information and Data

J. Gunn explained that the Haldimand East Elementary accommodations review process stemmed from a Board review of elementary pupil accommodation for Haldimand East in June, 2011. At the time, the Board requested that the Quality Accommodations Committee of the Board provide an updated report regarding accommodations in Haldimand East within three years. Updated enrolment statistics and utilization data was provided to the Board in August, 2013 and March, 2014. At the March, 2014 Board meeting, the Board passed a motion requiring the establishment of an Accommodation Review of the six identified Haldimand area schools to commence in the spring of 2015.

Haldimand County population data and growth expectations were presented with information compiled from Census data from 2001, 2006, and from the most recent Census conducted in 2011. School capacity figures were shown along with current and projected school enrolment

numbers for each school. Projected data suggests a slight continued decline in enrolment. The total combined school capacity is 1775 students. Overall enrolment is presently at 81% of school utilization. The 5 year projected enrolment is 75% utilization, and the 10 year projected enrolment is 74% utilization. Enrolment increases reflected in the past few years was due to the implementation of Full Day Kindergarten.

Questions from Committee regarding the School Profile Templates:

Q – Is ‘portable capacity’ included in the total combined school capacity figure of 1775?

A – No, this number excludes portables.

Q – Do all schools now have Full Day Kindergarten programs?

A – Yes.

Q – Does the Census data take into account students attending private schools?

A – Yes. The Census figures represent the total number of youth between the ages stated, who reside in Haldimand County.

5. Accommodations Review Committee Operation—B. Doyle, Chair

5.1 Hearing Delegations (How and When)

A meeting date will be established for community input and presentations. Once determined, the date will be posted on the Grand Erie website and at each of the involved schools. There is opportunity for public input prior to the final Board decision, either through delegation at a Committee of the Whole or regular Board meeting or, if necessary, at a Special Board meeting (in accordance with Board Bylaw 11).

5.2 Requesting Information from Grand Erie Staff

Grand Erie staff will bring additional information during the review, as requested by the ARC to support their work. Individual members, and members of the community, will not receive information—it must be requested by the Committee.

5.3 Posting Minutes and Information (Review of Minutes)

Agendas and minutes of ARC meetings and all information shared, developed and discussed relating to the review will be posted on the Grand Erie website and at each of the involved schools.

5.4 Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held at Thompson Creek Elementary School on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

5.5 Other Business

J. White, Principal, and the staff/community of J.L. Mitchener Public School were thanked for hosting the meeting.

The floor was opened to questions and comments from members of the community in attendance.

Questions/Comments from the Community

Q – Is archived data collected for the last Haldimand area Accommodations Review available for review?

A – The previously completed school profiles and public Census data from that time is available.

Chair, B. Doyle asked the ARC members if they wished to receive the archived data. Consensus was expressed by members to receive and review the data. It was noted by Chair Doyle that as this information, and all information reviewed by the Committee is public, it will also be posted on the Grand Erie website.

Q – Will a meeting be held at each of the six schools involved in the review as the minimum number of meeting is only four?

A – Yes. It is anticipated that this review will take a year or more to complete. Although the minimum required number of meetings is four, we will hold at least one meeting at each school. The Committee will determine the total number of meetings based on its needs in order to consider the material collected.

Q – Do students have a choice as to which school they attend?

A – Each school has an identified catchment area. There is a process, however, to allow a child attend a school outside of their catchment area.

Q – What is process for students to change schools?

A – A family notifies the home school and submits an application identifying the reason(s) for the request.

Q – Can catchment areas be changed?

A – Yes, there is a process by which this may occur (Boundary Review Process).

Q – What factors are taken into consideration when considering out of area requests?

A – A number of factors are considered focussing on individual student needs. The enrolment at both the home and requested schools is looked at. Transportation is generally not provided to students attending a school other than their home school although students may be considered for courtesy transportation.

Q – Is it possible to have the length of time a student spends being bussed included in the information considered by the Committee?

A – Yes. This information will be captured and collected on the school profile templates.

Q – Why are two additional schools included in this review that were not included in the Haldimand East ‘Dunnville area’ review?

A – When the Board called for this review, it decided at that time that J.L. Mitchener Public School and Rainham Central School should be included to allow for a fair assessment of accommodation of all schools in the Haldimand East community. The Board also felt inclusion of these two schools may alleviate the need for an additional Haldimand area review being required again in the very near future.

Q – Is the Board considering partnerships with other schools and services to use these buildings?

A – Yes, this is being considered by the Board as a result of the Secondary School Accommodation Review.

Q – Are members of school communities permitted to sign a petition to not have a school closed if they haven't attended the Accommodation Review Committee meetings?

A – An administrative review of the process may be sought, but not specifically of any decision made. An individual or individuals requesting an administrative review must demonstrate support by petition of 30% or more of an affected school's community. Parents/guardians of students, and/or individuals who participated in the ARC process are eligible to sign the petition.