



Accommodation Review Committee Haldimand Secondary Schools

Wednesday, March 5, 2014
Dunnville Secondary School

MINUTES

Present: Brian Doyle – Trustee (Chair), Arlene Everets - Trustee, Marion Macdonald – Trustee, Andy Nesbitt - Superintendent of Education, Anthony Whitman - OSSTF, Lynn Dunstall – CUPE, Greg Carruthers – Principal, Cayuga Secondary School, David MacDonald, Acting Principal, Dunnville Secondary School, Leanne Majerovich, Principal, Hagersville Secondary School, Darren Duff, Principal, McKinnon Park Secondary School, Angela Crossen, Parent Rep, Cayuga Secondary School, Carolyn O'Connor-McDaid, Parent Rep., Dunnville Secondary School, Brenda Lofthouse, Parent Rep, Hagersville Secondary School, Kim Zeller, Parent Rep, McKinnon Park Secondary School, Lorne Boyko, Municipal Councillor, Haldimand County, Jenny Bryce, Chamber of Commerce Representative

1. Welcome

B. Doyle welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the Haldimand Secondary School Accommodation Review Committee.

Other Board personnel in attendance included: Trustees – Carol Ann Sloat, Chair of the Board, Don Werden, and Student Trustee - Karissa Manning.

Administrative staff in attendance to provide resource included: John Forbeck - Director of Education, Jamie Gunn - Superintendent of Business, Dave Abbey – Assistant Superintendent of Education, Shawn McKillop, Public Relations Officer, Michelle O-Reilly – Planning Officer, and Heather-Jo Causyn, Recording Secretary.

2. Review of Motion

A motion was made by M. Macdonald at the January 22nd meeting to approve the November 21, 2013 minutes. As M. Macdonald was not a committee member at the November 21st meeting a motion is required for approval of the minutes by committee members that were in attendance at the November 21st and January 22nd meetings.

Motion by L. Boyko

Seconded by L. Dunstall

THAT the minutes of the November 21, 2013 meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

3. Review of Minutes – January 22, 2014

Motion by L. Dunstall

Seconded by J. Bryce

THAT the minutes of the January 22, 2014 meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED.



Accommodation Review Committee Haldimand Secondary Schools

Wednesday, March 5, 2014
Dunnville Secondary School

4. Communication with Committee Members

Information regarding the Accommodation Review is located on the Board's website. To better meet the needs of the committee and community, committee members were asked to provide contact information (ie., email address, contact numbers, contact through principal) that will be placed on the Board's website.

5. Presentation of Data – Follow Up From Previous Meeting

J. Gunn provided the costs for student transportation. Transportation is shared with elementary students and the co-terminous Board. The annual costs for Haldimand bus routes is \$2,649,994. The average cost of transporting a Haldimand student is \$820.69. The Grand Erie District School Board provides busing to 2,274 elementary students and 935 secondary students in Haldimand County.

6. Review of the ARC Process

J. Forbeck provided information in regards to the accommodation review process. The Preparation Stage has been completed. The Community Review Stage and the Community Consultation Stage is currently taking place. The Accommodation Review Committee will provide recommendations that will be presented to the Director. Executive Council will prepare a report that will contain recommendations and both reports (ie., Accommodation Review Committee and Executive Council) will be presented to the Board. The Board of Trustees will review the two reports and make decisions at some point in the future.

Options have been provided by Executive Council. The committee will review the options provided by Executive Council and develop their own recommendations which will be submitted to the Director and presented to the Board.

The options provided by Executive Council include:

- seek partnerships to create shared use of schools
- right size capacity of underutilized schools
- review attendance boundary areas to direct more students to underutilized schools
- close Cayuga, Hagersville or Dunnville secondary school and re-direct students to underutilized schools
- develop programming to attract additional students

[Click here for more information.](#)

7. Discussion Regarding Options

Following discussion the following motions were passed:

THAT information be provided as to the configuration of each secondary school if right sizing was to occur, areas in buildings that partners could occupy and the number of surplus spaces that would be eliminated.

Motion by L. Boyko

Seconded by A. Everets

Carried.



Accommodation Review Committee Haldimand Secondary Schools

Wednesday, March 5, 2014
Dunnville Secondary School

THAT information be provided on satellite campuses (ie., locations, number of students that attend satellite campuses, costs for rent and the potential of incorporating these programming into a school).

**Motion by A. Whitman
Seconded by L. Dunstall
Carried.**

THAT information be provided on offering Secondary French Immersion in a Haldimand secondary school.

**Motion by A. Everets
Seconded by K. Zeller
Carried.**

THAT information be provided in regards to attendance boundaries in the McKinnon Park Secondary School area.

**Motion by A. Everets
Seconded by J. Bryce
Carried.**

THAT closing a school be removed from the list of options.

**Motion by C. O'Connor-McDaid
Seconded by K. Zeller
Carried.**

THAT building a mega school be removed from the list of options.

**Motion by L. Boyko
Seconded by C. O'Connor-McDaid
Carried.**

THAT information be provided in regards to the cost of portables and cost benefit of reducing space within schools.

**Motion by A. Whitman
Secondary by C. O'Connor-McDaid.
Carried.**

THAT information be provided in regards to facility upgrades and capital required in each year over the five year period as indicated in the school profiles. What savings would be realized if schools were right sized and facility upgrades were no longer required.

**Motion by A. Whitman
Seconded by L. Boyko
Carried.**

THAT information be provided in regards to top up funding and funding for under-utilized schools.

**Motion by L. Boyko
Seconded by J. Bryce
Carried.**



Accommodation Review Committee Haldimand Secondary Schools

Wednesday, March 5, 2014
Dunnville Secondary School

THAT information be provided on the impact of Tuition Agreement students on the system.

Motion by M. Macdonald

Seconded by L. Dunstall

Carried.

8. Questions from the Committee

Q Who will take the lead in finding suitable partnerships, follow up and make informed decision as to which community organizations could potentially share space within the schools?

A The Committee could recommend community partnerships. There are a number of partnership models within our municipalities (ie., Norfolk County - library in a school) and across the province.

The Accommodation Review Committee does not direct Administration. The Board directs Administration.

Q How would removal of space in each of the secondary schools look? What capital grants are available to assist with funding the removal of surplus spaces? Is right sizing a school an option at each of the Haldimand secondary schools?

A At Delhi District Secondary School 200 surplus pupil spaces were eliminated when part of the school was removed. The library which was located in the older wing was rebuilt within the school and the school is now right sized for the community.

In its report to Executive Council the committee could suggest right sizing of schools as an option to be considered.

C Consideration could be given to making McKinnon Park Secondary School a walking school.

Q What is the number of students in portables at McKinnon Park Secondary School and what is the cost to run a portable?

A Portables accommodate 21 students. There are 14 portables at McKinnon Park so 294 pupil spaces. The capacity of portables is not included in the Ministry rated capacity of a school. If the Board removed the 14 portables 1,100 surplus spaces would remain in Haldimand secondary schools. The cost of portables is built in to the cost of running a school. The cost to run a portable for the year is approximately \$3,500.

Q What is the increase to such things as washroom space required in schools that have portables? Is there space for additional portables at McKinnon Park?

A The Municipal Code details the requirements for the number of washroom fixtures that need to be provided. No, there no further capacity for additional portables at McKinnon Park.

Q It was suggested to close all secondary schools and build a mega school. Would the committee like administration to look at a mega option?

A We would lose students to the neighbouring community schools if we were to select a mega school option. Many students would not want to travel to a central location and would go to schools outside of this Board.

Q If a section of a school is removed surplus space would be eliminated, but removal of a portable does not reduce surplus space?

A Correct, removing a portable does not change the capacity of the school. The Ministry rated capacity does not take the capacity of portables into account.



Accommodation Review Committee Haldimand Secondary Schools

Wednesday, March 5, 2014
Dunnville Secondary School

C If portables were removed and students reallocated each school's utilization would increase.

Q Why did it get this way and why didn't Trustees fix this before now?

Q Is a school ever considered full?

A Yes, a school can be considered full.

Q Now that we are not looking at closing any schools right sizing schools may be the answer.

What is considered by the Ministry to be the right size (ie. 75% of capacity)? What happens when schools continue to be underutilized? What is the cost of carrying a school at 60 or 70 % of capacity?

A The formulas (ie., on the ground capacity) are provided by the Ministry. Funding is student focused. It is harder for a Board to sustain funding for schools that are underutilized and programming opportunities for students are impacted when schools are underutilized.

C If a review of attendance boundaries for Tuition Agreement students is completed there will be many volatile situations if boundaries are changed and those students will go elsewhere.

C It is a difficult subject but it may help with self directing students to other schools. We need to have the discussion.

C Communities would benefit from information regarding Tuition Agreements students in the system. Six Nations has looked at building a facility. The Ministry does not recognize Tuition Agreement students for funding. The Committee and the Community need information on how the Ministry values Tuition Agreement students in the system.

Q The Board contacted the Band Council to seek approval to have M. Macdonald included on the committee? Did New Credit approve representation by M. Macdonald?

A New Credit made it clear that M. Macdonald was not to represent New Credit students. There has not been a conversation with New Credit in regards to representation on the Accommodation Review Committee. They have a small number of students that attend Grand Erie schools. In terms of engaging New Credit they have representation on the Native Advisory Committee.

C All partners should be consulted. I would suggest that New Credit be contacted.

C Trustee Macdonald is appointed to the Board by Six Nations. The former Haldimand Board had input from New Credit and Grand Erie would welcome input from New Credit. The Director could ask representatives of New Credit if they would like to make a presentation on behalf of their students attending Grand Erie schools.

C In reviewing the report D2d - Quality Accommodations - Observations and Recommendations for Haldimand Secondary schools it was recommended that the Board continue to seek capital funding to support portables. We would like to ensure that capital funding isn't being used for portables.

C An interesting piece about capital funding and portables at McKinnon Park Secondary School is that the Province does not recognize Tuition Agreement students within the funding allocation. McKinnon Park Secondary School is over capacity and needs funding to increase its current size but the Province would not provide capital funding for Tuition Agreement students and the capital



Accommodation Review Committee Haldimand Secondary Schools

Wednesday, March 5, 2014
Dunnville Secondary School

funding provided by the Federal government is minimal. We have inquired with both the Federal and Provincial governments as to where capital funding would come from for Tuition Agreement students.

Q So how are we to deal with the capital issue? Our province does not recognize these students and actually excludes Tuition Agreement students from the enrolment figures.

Q Is it possible for Committee members to receive, in advance, the information that will be presented at the March 25th meeting?

A Yes. There are a total of 11 reports that have been requested. The information will be presented over the next two meetings.

Q Referring to the Quality Accommodations report there appears to be changes to the enrolment numbers that were provided at the first Accommodation Review Committee meeting?

A New enrolment data is provided in October and March of each year. Wherever possible we use current enrollment data. So yes the enrollment data has been updated.

Q Who should we direct questions to about the agenda?

A Questions should be directed, through email, to the Chair, Brian Doyle.

9. Questions from the Community

C Lets not close a school.

C We should be talking to colleges about using surplus space. This would assist students that cannot afford to travel to a college.

C In regards to changing the boundaries and putting them back to where they used to be, students entering grade 9 could be moved to the school within the new boundary area but students that are already at a school should be given the option to remain there to finish off their secondary school education.

Q How would it look if the Board were to impose boundaries within Six Nations?

A Boundaries and busing would need to be reviewed. In the past there were boundaries imposed on Six Nations. Now Six Nations students select which secondary school that they would like to attend. We need to look at everything and this is one thing that we need to review.

C You need to reword what you are saying. Cut off busing to McKinnon Park Secondary School and it will work itself out. Make a decision that involves and is best for the students. The decisions made in the 90s were not entirely successful. Students did choose between Hagersville Secondary School and McKinnon Park Secondary School. Now if students are told which school they are to attend they may choose to attend a Catholic school.

Q 52% of students are going outside of Haldimand for their secondary education. Schools such as Holy Trinity in Simcoe have much more to offer students in terms of programming. Are you going to discuss ways to get these students backs? Program options need to be more attractive.

Q Is there money to provide attractive programming?

A Funding is based on students in the school. If it is decided to right size schools there could potentially be additional funding to provide programming.



Accommodation Review Committee Haldimand Secondary Schools

Wednesday, March 5, 2014
Dunnville Secondary School

Q In regards to organizations leasing space after 10 years could they be told that their space is no longer available or would they be considered permanent within a school?

A When a lease has expired organizations could be told that the space is no longer available.

C In Hamilton, hospitals are all working with other organizations to provide more (ie., working with schools to offer programming). Many schools specialize in certain areas (ie., technical school), If a school were to close what would the impact be on the local economy (ie., growth, Business of Commerce)? Secondary schools are a drawing force in each community. One of the most positive things put forth is to not close any schools. We need to do whatever it takes to keep schools open and think outside the box. Something could be done at the school level just like hospitals are doing.

C The Federal Government is looking at ways to keep rural communities going and have asked us what we can do to revitalize our community and ascertain jobs. In this area there are just under 200 jobs related to the wood working trade. Cayuga Secondary School can continue to provide programming that gives students a chance to work in that area. We have a good relationship with Cayuga Secondary School in the automotive trade as well. There are three former students that are now working as licensed mechanics. If we don't have the resources we cannot revitalize our community. Business people would like to assist in expanding some of these programs. Can we not go at this from a different angle? If Cayuga Secondary School was right-sized it could potentially mess up future development. Can we not request funding from the Federal government to expand programming? We cannot leave a stone unturned. If the school was down-sized it would have an effect on the programs. We are making in-roads to revitalizing our community. We ask that you approach the Federal government to look into their mandate of revitalizing the rural community.

Q What is the plan for the future? Is there a long term plan based upon the strategy of the County? Are you having that conversation with Haldimand County? Students' needs should be put first. Solutions need to be found to offer the best possible programming. Have you looked at how your schools stack up against other schools? Students change schools based on programming. A mega school provides students with many options and many more choices. Larger schools can afford to offer various programming pathways.

C We need to start to promote our schools. Let people know what we have available.

C A section of the high schools could be made to accommodate the elementary school. This would keep the high school viable.

C We need to ensure that we do not close a school. We could look at catchment areas and busing policies. Students should not be on a bus for more than one hour to assist with their mental capacity to learn. Right-sizing has been timetabled to review. Partners will take a while to locate and arrange. We could apply for funding grants (ie., declining enrolment grants).

C We should be looking at programs that could come into the high schools (ie., Turning Point). We could utilize space within the school in place of paying for rent.

Q Tuition Agreement students are not counted. These students are not going away. What can we do to have these students counted as they are part of our community?

A It is not that Tuition Agreement students are not counted. Funding for Tuition Agreement students is different. Capital funding is not provided for Tuition Agreement students but they are counted in our enrollment numbers.



Accommodation Review Committee Haldimand Secondary Schools

Wednesday, March 5, 2014
Dunnville Secondary School

C What can we do to get capital funding for Tuition Agreement students? We need to address the Federal government. These students need to be counted. What direction can you give us as a community? We could get the capital funding if we tried hard enough.

C Not a fan of closing high schools but look at the schools that you are trying to down-size. Students in grades 11 or 12 are in split classes. We need to ensure that students receive a proper education. Maybe closing one school and shifting students around is a better idea.

C Enrolment numbers are going down. Classes are offered but do not run because there are not enough students in them. In 5-10 years we will be in the same situation as we are right now.

C Schools could specialize. For example Cayuga Secondary School could be a school of technology.

C Want to see all of the kids get a proper education. Students that go outside of the community usually do so because of programming.

C There has been decreasing enrolment in our schools from 2008 to 2012, but Dunnville's enrollment is up 12%.

Q How do you determine accurate right-sizing? Is there a formula? How do you determine the cost of extra spaces versus demolition? I am not convinced that the enrolment numbers will decrease as indicated so we will need to be careful.

Q Are the boundary qualifications overlooked for students attending a specific high school?

A Yes, the Ministry recognizes that programs may be provided in specific schools and that we need to free up spaces within these programs for students outside the schools boundary area.

Q What happens when a student wants to attend a different school because their home school does not offer the programming that they want?

A Students that want a course not offered at their home school have the right to attend another school within their jurisdiction or if the Board does not offer the program the next closest school outside of the boundary area.

C In the 21st Century there are opportunities for students to take e-learning courses. These courses offer students pathways to success and provide for educational opportunities based on the student's specific needs.

Q Would the information (ie., administrative research) that is provided to the Accommodation Review Committee be made available to the public?

A Yes, the information will be posted on the Board's website.

Q The economic development foundation for this community is in our hospital and secondary school. We have heard from the committee tonight and it has been loud and clear, "Don't close any schools".

Q Are you seeking funding for the expansion of McKinnon Park Secondary School?

A No



Accommodation Review Committee Haldimand Secondary Schools

Wednesday, March 5, 2014
Dunnville Secondary School

10. Other Business

None

11. Next Meetings

Meetings have been scheduled as follows:

March 25 Hagersville Secondary School
April 9 Cayuga Secondary School
April 30 McKinnon Park Secondary School

All information will be posted on the Grand Erie website: www.granderie.ca. Click on the banner located on the top of the homepage that reads: Haldimand Secondary - Accommodation Review Committee.

Questions should be emailed to info@granderie.ca

Public inquiries can be made through Shawn McKillop, Manager of Communications and Community Relations 519-756-6301 extension 281147.