



## Accommodation Review Committee Haldimand Secondary Schools

Wednesday, April 9, 2014  
McKinnon Park Secondary School

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### 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, 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 fifth meeting of the Haldimand Secondary School Accommodation Review Committee.

Other Board personnel in attendance included: Trustees – Carol Ann Sloat, Chair, Rita Culver, David Dean, 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, Paul Kostelny, Principal-Leader, Shawn McKillop, Manager of Communications and Community Relations, Michelle O'Reilly – Planning Officer and Heather-Jo Causyn, Recording Secretary.

#### 2. Review of Minutes – March 25, 2014

Motion by L. Boyko

Seconded by L. Dunstall

THAT the minutes of the March 25, 2014 meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED.



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### Business Arising from Minutes

Q With the information presented in regards to right-sizing schools there will still be a surplus (ie., Dunnville Secondary School - 298). Are those figures going to be acceptable by the Ministry or are we going to have to look at other ways to reduce surplus spaces?

A The Ministry does not tell the Board how much surplus space is acceptable. The decision regarding surplus space rests with the Board. Ministry funding drives the Board's decision as funding is not provided for surplus space.

Q We have discussed removing a wing and right-sizing Dunnville Secondary School. This would potentially remove the existing library and 5 or 6 classrooms. The library would then be rebuilt somewhere else within the school. How do partnerships at Cayuga Secondary School or Dunnville Secondary School play into the equation in taking up capacity? What would the associated costs be?

A Assuming that the public library were to move into a school it would act as a tenant in the school. Items such as the cost of maintaining the space would be shared between the partners. In this type of situation the library would more than likely be larger allowing for more resources to be available to students and the community. It is a win/win situation for both parties and the Board eliminates surplus space.

### 3. Presentation of Data – Follow Up From Previous Meeting

#### 3.1 Cost Benefits of Reducing Space Within Schools

#### 3.2 Top Up Funding and Funding Underutilized Schools

#### 3.3 Students Living in Haldimand Attending a School Outside of Haldimand

#### 3.4 How Did It Get This Way?

A.Nesbitt reported McKinnon Park Secondary School opened in 1992 with a Ministry rated capacity of 555. At that time the Ministry of Education would provide school space based on student



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population at that time. As the population in the Caledonia area continued to escalate the Board was required to provide accommodations for the increased enrolment. From 1992 until approximately the 2000-2001 school year McKinnon Park Secondary School operated on a 5 period school day with three lunch periods. In the early 2000's the timetable was switched to a 4 period day with one lunch period. Consideration was given to adding portables as additional space was required to compensate for the removal of the fifth teaching period. In 2006 there were 735 students and 9 portables on site. In 2008 there were 850 students and 14 portables on site.

The Ministry of Education provided the opportunity for open access to schools. This permits students to attend the high school of their choice as it best meets their learning needs. Transportation is not provided by the Grand Erie District School Board for students who live outside of the catchment area. There is a courtesy transportation policy in place that allows students to access available seats on existing bus routes.

Transportation funding on Six Nations is provided by AANDC and is at no cost to the Board. Students are transported to the school of their choice and transportation is provided for by AANDC. In the 1980's there were boundaries established on Six Nations that required students to attend a specific school but the boundaries were no longer enforced sometime in the 1980's and students were granted access to the secondary school of their choice.

Over the last few years more students have chosen to attend McKinnon Park Secondary School and there are more students coming from Six Nations now than have attended in the past.

### 3.5 New Credit Representation

J. Forbeck reported that information from the Chief of New Credit indicates that they having been following the accommodation process and have kept Council up to date. They are not interested at this time in presenting a delegation and are satisfied with the communication to date.

## 4. Delegations

The following delegations were provided:

*Achievement*

*Environment*

*Engagement*



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- 4.1 Don Flicker, Parkway Day Care Centre
- 4.2 Pat Hyslop, Cayuga Gymnastics Club
- 4.3 Rob Phillips, Community Member
- 4.4 Sarah Compton, Staff Member of Hagersville Secondary School
- 4.5 Melissa Turner, Staff Member of Hagersville Secondary School
- 4.6 Robert Phillips, President of the Hagersville & District Chamber of Commerce
- 4.7 Melissa Turner, Staff Member of Hagersville Secondary School
- 4.8 Melissa Turner, Staff Member of Hagersville Secondary School
- 4.9 Bernie Corbett, Community Member\*
- 4.10 Christine Schweyer, Student at Hagersville Secondary School
- 4.11 John Edelman, President of Cayuga and District Chamber of Commerce, President of Haldimand Motors, President of Blue Barn Furnishings
- 4.12 Shayna Chang, Student at Cayuga Secondary School
- 4.13 Hayden Fox, Student at Cayuga Secondary School

\*Denotes read by B. Doyle in Mr. Corbett's absence.

### 5.0 Discussion Regarding Options

Options discussed included:

- That all Haldimand County Guidance Teachers work together to convince students from Six Nations and New Credit to choose Grand Erie schools
- Partner with post-secondary institutions (Mohawk, Fanshawe, etc. to utilize space in our secondary schools); recommendation to have a point person to facilitate partnerships
- Potential site for French Immersion program at the secondary level at one of the four schools where space is available
- Partner with daycare providers
- Trades-oriented/apprenticeship programs (training centres)



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### Cayuga Secondary School

- School will remain open
- Partnership with Haldimand County Public Library to move into Cayuga Secondary
- Build a focus program in the agriculture sector
- Partner with Mohawk College
- Training centre

### Dunnville Secondary School

- School will remain open
- Right-size Dunnville Secondary School (use classroom space to build new library)
- Build a focus program in the agriculture sector

### Hagersville Secondary School

- School will remain open
- Partnership with West Haldimand Hospital
- Medical (Health and Wellness) Specialist High Skills Major program
- Daycare centre
- Sports focus (lacrosse)

### McKinnon Park Secondary School

- School will remain open
- Portable review

## 6.0 Questions from the Committee

Q Is a school considered full and should that decision not be made when registrations are received?

Is consideration given to referring extra students to other Grand Erie schools? Has a decision



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been made for a school to be considered full before portables are added? Why was that not done with the over-population at McKinnon Park?

A In the early 2000's we thought that there was a resolution as students from Six Nations were re-directed from McKinnon Park Secondary School to their home schools.

At one time the Standing Committee, Caledonia Boundary Review Committee, which was made up of Trustees and Senior Administration recommended McKinnon Park Secondary School be designated as a walking school. Because of the Ministry changes that allowed students to go to the school of their choice for programming the recommendation was not followed through on.

Now if the Board decided to implement the idea that students must attend their home school students could decide not to attend Cayuga or Hagersville and choose Holy Trinity or St. John's instead which would reduce the student population for the entire Board.

Q As there was over population at McKinnon Park Secondary School why weren't students from outside the area directed to attend the school in their home area?

A We are not privy to that discussion back then. That could be a consideration going forward.

C Looking at the accommodations in Haldimand County committee members see two challenges – excess of 1,000 surplus spaces and unbalance as to which school students are attending. I would suggest moving forward using some of the great ideas that have been heard today.

C We need to have an honest discussion about moving forward and how to handle an uneven ground for students. If we were to offer students the right kind of programs, strong programs, this could help in the decision making as to which school students wish to attend.

Q What other things have been done to offer programs to make it so that students would want to go to the other schools? There have been plenty of opportunities for everyone to fix this problem.



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- C Grand Erie should take the lead on partnerships with the hospitals, Mohawk College and McMaster University and designate someone as the lead for partnerships. A point person.
- C Administration and the Director have a lot of contacts, it will take time to talk to the various agencies and get feedback.
- C When it comes to right-sizing schools if Dunnville Secondary School were to lose their small gym the permits that are held from Monday to Thursday each week will not have anywhere else to go and we will lose those community organizations that have been in schools for years.

### 7.0 Questions/Comments from the Community

- C The Student Trustee is to share the student voice. Communication with organizations such as Haldimand-Norfolk REACH could be explored which would assist in providing awareness in mental health issues and provide for partnerships with other agencies. Renting space may not be financially possible for one organization but if there is the potential for partnering with other local agencies it could be worked out.
- Q How long do we have to right-size schools? Is there a timeline that needs to be met if right-sizing schools is agreed upon? Would the Board start with grade 9 students next year?
  - A The process would be phased in until we get to the numbers we need to make this work. Students currently in attendance at McKinnon Park Secondary School cannot be asked to leave. We need to show a sincere effort in trying to right-size as we cannot remain status quo. This is something that we need to work towards.
- Q Six Nations and New Credit community are realizing the impact that this is having on our children. Would the committee allow us to speak at the next meeting?
  - A Yes, the committee has agreed to hear one more delegation. The group is asked to provide their delegation in writing prior to the April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.



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### 8.0 Next Meetings

The next meeting has been scheduled to be held on April 30, 2014 beginning at 7:00 pm at Cayuga Secondary School.

B. Doyle thanked our hosts McKinnon Park Secondary School, the committee, administration and the community for their support with the Accommodation Review process.

All information will be posted on the Grand Erie website: [www.granderie.ca](http://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](mailto:info@granderie.ca)

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