

North Brant Elementary Accommodation Review
January 14, 2016
ARC Summary Notes from Meetings 1 & 2

1.0 Statement of Purpose and Responsibility

- An Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was created in September 2015 in response to the Quality Accommodations Committee report approved by the Board of Trustees in April 2015.
- An ARC is created to provide advice to the Board on pupil accommodation matters for a school or group of schools
- The North Brant Elementary Accommodation Review was initiated to address the accommodation pressures related to French Immersion. As part of the review process, the capacity for Paris Central was clarified, and the rated capacity was increased from 219 to 259. Based on the updated figures, Paris Central is operating below 75% capacity.

2.0 A. Committee Composition

- The North Brant ARC was comprised of:
 - One School Council rep from each school involved in the review:
 - Burford District Elementary School – Jennifer Kyle
 - Cobblestone Elementary – Melissa Warren
 - North Ward Public School – Pam Barrowcliffe
 - Paris Central – Joan Faux
 - Two Trustees as Ad Hoc members:
 - Rita Collver
 - Tom Waldschmidt
 - Superintendent of Education as Facilitator:
 - Wayne Baker

B. Resource Staff to Support the ARC

- Board staff and Principals will be a resource to the Committee as required:
 - * Director of Education – Brenda Blancher
 - * Jamie Gunn – Superintendent of Business
 - * Shawn McKillop – Manager of Communications
 - * Michelle O'Reilly – Planning Officer
 - * Wendy Slaven – Administrative Assistant
 - * Mary Ann Shay – Principal, Burford District Elementary School
 - * Jeff Senior – Principal, Cobblestone Elementary
 - * Cathy Shaheen – Principal, North Ward Public School
 - * Sharon Lytle – Principal, Paris Central School

3.0 Committee Operating Procedures and Scope

- Meetings were held on November 3, 2015 (Paris Central); December 2, 2015 (Cobblestone Elementary); and January 14, 2016 (North Ward Public School).
- Meeting notes are posted at:
<http://www.granderie.ca/school/accommodationreviews/pages/north-brant-accommodation-review.aspx>
- Superintendent of Education Wayne Baker acted as Facilitator for the ARC.
- The Committee acted in accordance with policy FT5 (Pupil Accommodation Reviews) and By-law #11 (Delegations).

Information Sharing and Community Feedback

Meeting #1

There was a review of the ARC process, sharing of the accommodation recommendation from Senior Administration, and sharing of the Board's data with respect to the schools involved in the ARC. For Cobblestone Elementary, North Ward Public School and Paris Central School, an aerial map, a boundary map, enrolment projections, floor plans, site plans, a zoning map, and the School Information Profile were presented. This information is available on the GEDSB website. (At this point, Burford DES was not included in the ARC.)

Questions were forwarded from Committee and audience members. They are summarized as follows:

- Calculation of school capacity
- The future of community programs in schools under review
- Out of Attendance Area students
- Consideration of new housing developments in the review area
(Superintendent Gunn brought additional information to the December 2 meeting in response to the questions raised.)
- Clarification of school capacities and enrolments, and Board data
- Impact of, and options and challenges for, French Immersion
- Transportation challenges at Paris Central
- Value of Paris Central to students, families and the community
- Class sizes
- Dual-track FI as an option for Paris Central
- Miscommunication by the Board with respect to the purpose of the North Brant ARC
- Inclusion of Burford District Elementary School in the North Brant ARC
- Delegation process

Concluding comments were submitted from the Committee and the audience. They are summarized below:

- The process has been rushed, and is short-sighted.
- Board data is inaccurate.
- "Decision has already been made."
- Moving students is detrimental to their health.
- Move the boundary lines to adjust schools to the 75% capacity.
- Transportation issues need more attention.
- Burford parents have had no input into potential FI changes at Paris Central.
- Split FI between all Paris Schools to save the closure of Paris Central.

Meeting #2

This was designated as delegation night, with 14 delegations presented to the Committee. Full submissions are available on the Board website. The Committee had an opportunity to question presenters. Questions were solicited from the audience. In addition, school information was shared regarding Burford District Elementary School, which was added to the ARC – by Board motion - on November 9.

- Delegation #1 – Mahy, Krista
- Delegation #2 - Feist, Aimee
- Delegation #3 - Gallant, Sonya
- Delegation #4 - McDougall, Devon
- Delegation #5 - Strauss, Julie
- Delegation #6 - Paris Central Student Body – Ella
- Delegation #7 - Reynolds, Michelle and Dave
- Delegation #8 - Keefe, Lisa
- Delegation #9 - Parents of North Brant FI Programming – Reid, Laura
- Delegation #10 - Ripski, Robin/Faux, Alex
- Delegation #11 - McCrea, Shona
- Delegation #12 - McDougall, T.J.
- Delegation #13 - St. Paul's United Church – Rev. Barbara Fullerton
- Delegation #14 - MacDougall, Tom

Questions were submitted from the audience. Topics are summarized as follows:

- Dual-track FI options at Paris Central
- Date for Trustee decision re Paris Central
- Connection between FI boundary decisions and the North Brant ARC
- Representation on FI Consultation Committee by Parents of North Brant FI: Director Blancher assured the Paris Central community that it would have representation on the Committee
- School communities being pitted against each other
- Impact of BHNCD SB FI program
- Trustee awareness of Burford's late addition to the ARC
- Timing of potential changes to Paris Central: Director Blancher stated that no changes involving Paris Central would be made before September 2017.

Between meetings, Committee members and the community were invited to submit questions/comments to Wendy Slaven, ARC Recorder, or Info@granderie.ca. These would be addressed at the following meeting.