



## North Brant Elementary Accommodation Review Committee

November 3, 2015 – 7:00 PM  
Paris Central School – Gymnasium

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### MEETING NOTES

#### In Attendance:

**W. Baker** (Facilitator) – Superintendent of Education, **Rita Collver** – Trustee, **Tom Waldschmidt** – Trustee, **Melissa Warren** – Parent Representative, Cobblestone Elementary, **Pam Barrowcliffe** – Parent Representative, North Ward Public School, **Joan Faux** – Parent Representative, Paris Central

#### 1. Welcome and Introduction

W. Baker, Facilitator of the Committee, welcomed Committee members and those present in the audience to the first meeting of the North Brant Elementary Accommodation Review Committee.

Brenda Blancher - Director of Education, Jeff Senior – Principal, Cobblestone Elementary, Cathy Shaheen – Principal, North Ward Public School, Sharon Lytle – Principal, Paris Central, and Grand Erie District School Board Administrative staff: Jamie Gunn – Superintendent of Business, Michelle O'Reilly – Planning Officer, Shawn McKillop – Manager of Communications and Community Relations, and Tara Capinding – Recording Secretary, were in attendance to provide resource to the Committee.

#### 2. Review of the Accommodation Process, B. Blancher

Information presented will be posted on the Grand Erie website at [www.granderie.ca](http://www.granderie.ca). Questions regarding the process may be submitted by email to [info@granderie.ca](mailto:info@granderie.ca).

#### 3. Background Information and Data, J. Gunn

Information presented will be posted on the website.

#### 4. School Information Profiles, J. Gunn

Information presented will be posted on the website.

#### 5. Questions from the Community

*(C – Comment, Q – Question, R – Response)*

Q Does the population/capacity of the schools considered include figures with or without portables?

R Does not include portables.

Q There are currently community programs that exist at the schools that will potentially inherit additional students, does the classroom use include these spaces? Will these programs be displaced?

R There is a possibility that these programs may be displaced.

Q Will the out of area students currently attending Cobblestone/North Ward School be displaced by the closure of Paris Central?

R Out of area students would have to go through the regular application process and would be accepted based on availability.

- Q How is it possible that the figures you are showing the numbers as declining, when this area is surrounded by new development?
- R Included in the projections, we look at new development areas, and are in constant contact with community and developments in the area. The speed of development has a great deal of impact on the numbers. This information is tracked and followed and used in the projections. The student yield per household is often lower than most people would expect.  
(This information to be shared at the next meeting)
- Q Can you clarify the numbers that have been presented regarding school capacity for Paris Central and address why the numbers have changed from the first report on April 20<sup>th</sup>, again in July and differing again tonight? Resulting in a change from 76% capacity to 67%.
- R We have spent some time in the school, reviewing how the classes were labelled or used according to the Ministry. Reg. class 23, Spec Ed 9 - Reviewing the School Information Profile shows the corrections that have been made following this review.
- Q What is a portapack?
- R Portable structure that is added to the school, can be attached to the school, can be relocated.
- Q Looking that there would be 103 students that would be moved to Cobblestone? However there is only a capacity for 53? Please explain.
- R Students that are currently attending the school from out of area would be reviewed, another option would be looking at adding additional space on to the school. All options would need to be considered.
- Q Splitting students based on the boundary line of the Railway, is there some discretion for families that would allow students to attend North Ward if they are not within the boundary north of the track?
- R You will be able to apply to attend an out of area school, based on availability, students are accepted. Transportation is not provided for out of area students, unless there is space/seat available on the bus.
- Q With the numbers that have been presented having changed multiple times, is there a policy/procedure in place for a peer review or 3<sup>rd</sup> party audit to review the figures presented?
- R There should be enough information to review from tonight, if you identify an area of concern where you believe the information to be incorrect, bring it forward so that it can be addressed.
- Q How will you know the French Immersion program will reach the 75% capacity level if introduced? Is the 75% capacity level set by the provincial government different for French Immersion?
- R It is likely French Immersion would not be full initially. This number is not set by the provincial government, it is where the Board starts the process of reviewing capacity levels at schools.

- Q Where is the source for the projection information provided?  
R Grand Erie uses a student modeling software to help with capture this information with the help of census information and trends.
- Q Is it acceptable to be using 2011 census information when the census wasn't mandatory and not used by the provincial government due to lack of inaccuracy?  
R We use more than population data in the projections. The most recent census showing little change in the 0-9 age group has been confirmed by the enrolment in elementary schools four years later. The population of the 0-9 age group has levelled off as has the enrolment in our elementary schools.
- Q Were there any other options for the French Immersion program other than Paris Central?  
R It is still in process of review, it may or may not be the final option. There are other options to manage the growth of French Immersion. These will be discussed next Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
- Q How are you predicting who is moving into the vast residential developments in the area?  
R Based on different types of development areas, they each yield different numbers of students. We can profile these averages at the next meeting and show how yields are different from varying developments.
- Q How will you plan for bussing all of the out of area students to Paris Central that is located on a street and an area that is not easily accessible for buses, parking and the increase in traffic?  
R Bussing is being reviewed, it would create some logistical challenges, none that we have not faced before and that we would not be able to overcome.
- Q What part of the Accommodation Review Committee and the consultation process is considering the value of the school to the students, to the families and to the community?  
R The committee is able to learn more from parents/community members coming out, hearing your concerns and listening to the discussions, which will help us to recognize the role that the school plays in the community.
- Q How and why are we accommodating ballooning class sizes against research and data that suggests that children benefit from smaller classes?  
R Class sizes are determined by Ministry formulae which are used in all schools in Grand Erie.
- Q What are the options of French Immersion students from Shellards Lane, out of area students attending Dufferin?  
R Once extended fully to Grade 8, people that live in the county will go to French Immersion in the county. Burford is expected to grow one grade next fall. Shellards Lane to take pressure off of Dufferin – options to be considered next Monday, November 9, 2015.

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- Q Can the decision timeline be extended?  
R Timeline is set so that a final decision can be made. This would allow for enrollments in Dec/January for the 2016-2017 school year. This process allows for the Trustees to review accurately when the board comes with a recommendation. The information that is presented can change their minds if they have information that will benefit the school/community.
- Q If there are out of area students already attending another school which is resulting in Paris Central not reaching the 75% capacity levels, why are they permitted to go there?  
R Any parent can apply for out of attendance area status for their children.
- Q Can Dual-Track programming be a possibility at Paris Central?  
R Trustees can consider any option.
- Q Can we address the miscommunication on all websites that the North Brant ARC and the French Immersion were one and the same issue?  
R We will ensure we provide accurate information.
- Q Will there be another ARC for French Immersion?  
R No. You will have the option to have a delegation.
- Q Are there enough French teachers to accommodate the French Immersion program?  
R There is a recruitment program in place to address this legitimate concern, which is province wide, the process has been successful to date in attracting French teachers to Grand Erie.
- Q Have you consulted with the county with consideration of the roads in Paris to accommodate the increased number of busses, road conditions, parking and increased traffic?  
R We have 11,000 students bussed safely to school each day, all of these concerns would be reviewed in greater detail with the county.
- Q Why is Burford not represented on the ARC?  
R This ARC was intended for the schools in Paris and is comprised of Parent representatives and Trustees.
- Q Is Dual-Track programming a possibility for all 3 schools in Paris?  
R Feasibility review required.
- Q If this ARC is for North Brant, should Glen Morris also be included? Are you intending on closing all schools within Grand Erie that are below the 75% capacity and enrolment trends?  
R It is a starting point to cause the board to bring forward a recommendation for review and ask the Trustees to review. It is a continual process, the next review is in Norfolk County and it is never pleasant going through the process in the communities involved.
- Q Can we be provided with a list of upcoming dates for all meetings moving forward?  
R This information will be available and a strong effort will be made to separate the French Immersion discussions that started on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Q When is the next meeting?

R The Delegation meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2015 @ 7pm – location to be determined. Delegation information is available on the banner of the board website. Ten minute maximum to present. Please submit delegations in advance to [info@granderie.ca](mailto:info@granderie.ca) by November 25, 2015 – The Trustees will receive this in advance will be able to review your exact words before it is presented.

Q Is it necessary to submit delegations in writing?

R Yes, this is part of the process that it is received in advance.

Q Can we make sure that all of the schools involved receive this information?

R Yes.

Q When is the delegation meeting for Shellards Lane/Burford?

R The next Board meeting held on Monday, November 9, 2015 @ 7:15 p.m., at the Education Center – Erie Ave. Delegations to be received Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> before noon. Trustees will decide on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Comments from the Community

- Feel that we have received conflicting information, we feel rushed in preparing delegations.
- Concerns with the population growth figures presented that they are disingenuous.
- Feels like the decision has already been made.
- Requesting 3<sup>rd</sup> party for primary sources for numbers – there is too much of a discrepancy and more transparency is required.
- The removal of children from their schools will be detrimental to their mental, physical health and educational spirit.
- Consider moving boundary lines to adjust schools to the 75% capacity across the board.
- More consideration needs to be given regarding the bus structure, increased traffic, limited parking and safety concerns.
- The Burford French Immersion program is being restructured to go to Paris Central without the input from parents.
- Students and families will be losing the sense of community.
- Split the French Immersion between all schools to increase the numbers and save the closure of Paris Central.
- Full-day Kindergarten was not introduced at Paris Central in years 3 and 4, it was implemented in year 5 and these numbers would be reflected in the census numbers that were used in your findings from 2011.
- This review seems extremely short-sighted, concerns of logistics, significant safety concerns and from a risk management perspective – I hope that these issues are carefully reviewed.
- Seems as though there is a big demand for French Immersion and we have to put them somewhere, moving the pegs around to maximize the funding from the government.
- It was said this evening that Cobblestone is full. Change the numbers to elevate the numbers at Paris Central.
- Following the reports in April, June and September Burford is not expanding, split the French Immersion at Burford and bring the overflow here.
- As a senior level staff member at the county, I am not aware that you have come before the planning advisory committee and not aware of any of that communication.

- Planning Office at the county has been in communication with School Board, but were not aware of school closure/boundary planning.
- Brother-in-law was part of the ARC committee to Save AJ Baker – they won – it is possible.

**6. Other Business**

None.

**7. Next Meeting**

Wednesday, December 2, 2015 7:00 p.m. – Delegation Meeting – Location to be determined.