

**PETROLIA CONSULTATION SESSION #2
RECORD OF ACTION**

Date: December 9, 2010

Location: Queen Elizabeth II Public School

Present: Jim Costello, Director of Education, Bert Phillips, Superintendent of Education, Ron Andruchow, Superintendent of Education, Mike Gilfoyle, Superintendent of Education, Joy Badder, Superintendent of Education, Todd Hayward, Principal Queen Elizabeth II P.S., Ruth Kohut, Principal Hillcrest P.S.

Resource Personnel: Lorie Vandeschoot, Planning & Reporting Officer, Jane Kovar, Recorder

Trustees: Judy Krall, Scott McKinlay, Chair, Carmen McGregor

Note: This document is not a verbatim transcript. Questions and answers have been paraphrased for the sake of clarity and brevity.

Item	Discussion	Action/Responsibility
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Costello introduced himself as Director and facilitator of the Petrolia Consultation process. He welcomed and thanked everyone for attending and introduced Bert Phillips, Superintendent of Education, Ron Andruchow, Superintendent of Business, Joy Badder, Superintendent of Education, Todd Hayward, Principal of Queen Elizabeth II P.S., Ruth Kohut, Principal of Hillcrest P.S., Lorie Vandeschoot, Planning Officer for the Board and Jane Kovar, Administrative Assistant. He also thanked Principal Todd Hayward for hosting the consultation. Director Costello also recognized Mike Gilfoyle, Superintendent of Human Resources and Board Trustees in attendance, Trustee Scott McKinlay, newly elected Trustee for the Petrolia Area, Judy Krall and Trustee and Chair Carmen McGregor. • Director Costello indicated that we are here as result from the June 22, 2010 Board Report regarding the Pupil Accommodation Report for the Petrolia Area of Schools, which recommended that the Board hold public consultation meetings with the Petrolia community during the fall of 2010, in conjunction with the French Immersion District Review to seek input on the remaining options. <p>After consulting with the Ministry on capital funding options, administration was advised that they were not supportive of building additions on 2 schools and</p>	

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	<p>Board Administration needed to modify the recommendations. The June 22, 2010 Board Report indicated that in conjunction with public consultation meetings the Board seek input on the remaining options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A boundary change to convert Hillcrest Public School to a JK-8 regular program facility and Queen Elizabeth II Public School a dual track JK-8 regular program and French Immersion school ii. A reorganization of program delivery to offer JK-8 French Immersion in a single track model at Hillcrest Public School with Queen Elizabeth II offering regular JK-8 program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Costello indicated that the purpose of the meeting is to consult and listen to the Petrolia community on the above two options, to obtain the Public's thoughts and to share the same with the Board of Trustees, when making further recommendations to the Board. The Board recognizes there is growth in the Petrolia area, and has a responsibility to effectively align programs in the area. 	
<p>Review of Record of Action from November 25, 2010 First Consultation Session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Costello pointed out that there was a discrepancy concerning the time of tonight's meeting. It was brought to his attention that the local newspaper and radio station had indicated a 6:00 p.m. start time, the Record of Action from the November 25th meeting posted a 7:00 p.m. start time and the agenda stated a 6:30 p.m. start time. Director Costello apologized for the discrepancy and indicated that he believed that anyone arriving by 7:00 p.m. would certainly still benefit from the meeting and would have ample opportunity to provide input surrounding the Pros and Cons of each of the two options. • The record of action will be revised and re-posted to indicate the correct start time of 6:30 p.m. • Director Costello reviewed the Record of Action from the November 25, 2010 consultation pointing out that the document is not a verbatim transcript, but a Record of Action. • Director Costello also indicated, that since the last meeting he has been responding to questions submitted from the community and stated that the public have admitted to having a better understanding of the French Immersion Review process and decision. 	<p>J. Kovar</p>
<p>Sharing of Information on Single Track Model French Immersion Schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joy Badder, Superintendent of Education indicated that a viable option to the Hillcrest Public School over capacity issue, from both program and economic perspectives, would be a change in the delivery model of French Immersion. Many school boards across the province have French Immersion programs in schools designated solely to that program. These are called single track 	

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	<p>schools. There are curriculum, staffing and financial reasons to support that model. The Program Department has determined from provincial and international research that there are significant advantages to a single track French Immersion organization both from a language acquisition and learning point of view.</p> <p>There are important accommodation reasons for consolidation of French Immersion sites, particularly in areas where these programs have low enrolment. If there were to be a consolidation of French Immersion programs into fewer sites, particularly in areas where these programs have low enrolment, greater supports could be provided in terms of resources, including staff, special education and libraries. In a single track school, the students would continue to have the same division of French and English instruction as mandated by the Ministry of Education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent Badder provided information through a Powerpoint presentation on the option of a single track school. Data including French Immersion delivery models of surrounding school board districts were illustrated, which included single track and dual track elementary schools. • All boards illustrated had an early immersion model ranging from JK – Grade 1. • Superintendent Badder also presented research on the strengths and challenges of single track versus dual track French Immersion schools. Research was provided in consultation with the Thames Valley District School Board who have the most number of single track schools. • Superintendent Badder also indicated that the Lambton Kent District School Board’s French Immersion model is unique. Our model of delivery provides full 100% immersion from JK through Grade 2, and a 50% English and 50% French level of instruction from Grades 3 through 8. • Question – Speaker asked if consultation was made with a single track French Immersion school similar in community size. Response – Superintendent Badder indicated that she could not locate a single track FI school similar in size to the Petrolia Area community within our Region. • Question – Speaker asked how extra- curricular activities would be affected with a single track school. Response – Director Costello stated that if the number of students at a single track site were to be denied the opportunity to play on sports teams, the Board would be open and flexible to suggestions in order to provide extra-curricular activities. The combination of students from all Petrolia schools could definitely be an option. 	

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	<p>Response – Speaker indicated that this fall, students from Hillcrest, Queen Elizabeth and Lambton Centennial schools combined to form a Cross Country team to represent the Petrolia District.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question - Speaker asked why other school boards were moving to single track. Response – Superintendent Badder indicated that attrition rates have decreased in the French Immersion program with the implementation of Single track schools. • Question – Speaker asked how many English JK-3 students would be moved to Queen Elizabeth School if Hillcrest became a single track school. Response – Lorie Vandeschoot indicated 186 students would move to an English program at Queen Elizabeth School. • Question – Speaker asked what the enrolments were at the single track schools in the data provided. Response – Superintendent Badder indicated she did not have specific enrolment numbers. • Question – Speaker asked if construction was only necessary at Queen Elizabeth II school? Response – Director Costello indicated that Option 2 would require an addition at Queen Elizabeth II School. Director Costello also stated that a new gym addition at Queen Elizabeth which has been ranked as priority # 17 on the Board's Capital project priority submission has now been changed to rank as priority # 1. Superintendent Badder confirmed that if a decision was not made and status quo occurred, that based on projected enrolment, a total of 10 classrooms would be required for implementation of Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) program which is being phased in by the Ministry through 2015. • Question – Speaker asked if portables are considered a permanent or temporary solution? Response – Superintendent Andruchow indicated portables are a temporary solution. • Question – Speaker asked if a “Status Quo” position remains in the Petrolia area, with the possibility of moving the Grade 3 students to Queen Elizabeth II school. Response - Superintendent Badder stated that transferring the younger grades, and with the implementation of Full Day Kindergarten, Hillcrest would become a JK – Grade 1 school only. Response – Director Costello stated that the Board would like to address the 	

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	<p>enrolment concerns in the Petrolia area. The Lambton Kent District School Board operates and maintains its schools as effectively and efficiently as possible to support student achievement, while exploring all opportunities to enhance the learning environment. Projected enrolments for the Petrolia area were reviewed and determined to be healthy for the next 5 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment – Speaker stated that Hillcrest Public School is unique, a small and special school with just primary students attending. Hillcrest is also very focused and structured for primary learning. Response – Director Costello indicated that if Hillcrest were to become a single track school it also would be unique to the Board and provide a structured and focused French Immersion program setting. • Comment – Member of the community provided a brief 30 year history of the Petrolia area surrounding Queen Elizabeth and Hillcrest Schools. Response – Director Costello thanked the speaker for the details provided and agreed that the Board data illustrates limited projected growth for the Town of Petrolia. • Question – Speaker asked for the capacity of Hillcrest school and the enrolment data as a single track school. Response – Lorie Vandeschoot indicated the Ministry rated capacity for Hillcrest as 213. She stated that using current enrolment numbers, Hillcrest would have an enrolment of 175, provided students remain in the French Immersion program. Comment – Speaker indicated that a single track site being unique, and providing additional program benefits, could definitely attract future registrations in the French Immersion program. Response – Director Costello agreed that a single track location could definitely address the attrition concerns, as well as, become a “drawing factor” for the French Immersion program. 	
<p>Results of the Survey conducted by the School Councils from Hillcrest and Queen Elizabeth II Public Schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Council Representatives Dean Melton and Denise Beaumont presented data from a survey distributed to Hillcrest and Queen Elizabeth families. • Dean Melton stated that the survey was developed due to the frustration over the lack of representation and attendance at the consultation meeting held on November 25th. He decided to include other options in the survey in order to obtain extra feedback from the Petrolia community. • Denise Beaumont reviewed the survey results. She indicated that additional results have come in which had not yet been recorded. • Director Costello thanked both Dean and Denise for their effort and time. He 	<p>Post results on both elementary</p>

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	also indicated that the survey results could be updated and posted on the Hillcrest and Queen Elizabeth school websites.	school websites
Pros and Cons of Option 1	<p>PRO'S</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only requires addition at one school • Greater probability of Ministry providing funding for additional classrooms at one location • Full Day Kindergarten may provide for renovations/additions at Queen Elizabeth II site <p>CON'S</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 121 FI Hillcrest students would be transferred to Queen Elizabeth II School • A percentage of Queen Elizabeth School students would need to be transferred to Hillcrest School, which would require a boundary change 	
Pros and Cons of Option 2	<p>PRO'S</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers fit • Fewer students dropping out in upper grades <p>CON'S</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not have number register if single track • Students leaving program would affect neighbouring schools • Form of segregation • Socialization and integration of students 	
Further discussion on Pros and Cons of Option 1 and 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Costello reviewed the Pros and Cons for both Option 1 and 2. • Question – Speaker asked if the Board could provide class sizes for a single track school. Response – Director Costello indicated that Superintendent Gilfoyle will review enrolment data in the Spring to determine staffing requirements. It would be difficult to anticipate class sizes at this time, not knowing if students would remain in the French Immersion program could complicate projections. • Question – Speaker asked when any changes would occur? Response – Director Costello indicated that the Trustees would like to have a recommendation brought to the Board of Trustees by February 2011. It would also be beneficial to have a decision in place to prepare for JK/K registration, which occurs on February 28th and March 1, 2011. If a consensus can not be reached, Senior Administration will bring a recommendation to the Board of 	

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	<p>Trustees. The Board would like to have changes in affect by September 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question – Speaker asked what the timeline for construction would be. Response – Superintendent Andruchow stated that construction of P.E. McGibbon, a new school in Sarnia, was completed in 1 year. Superintendent Andruchow stated that the Ministry is aware that we are trying to come up with a plan to address enrolment concerns in the area. The Ministry has already granted an extension on the Board’s Capital Funding submission, so there is pressure from the Ministry to reach a decision. • Comment – Speaker stated that the group should be careful when looking to make a decision based on survey results. Response – Director Costello indicated decisions are made based on information and input gathered from those who attend the meetings. The ARC process and November 25th meeting revealed that the Ministry would not support the construction of a super school. He indicated the School Council survey was an attempt to get input and results on the options from the community. Director Costello wants to bring a recommendation to the Board of Trustees that the community supports but also one that is fiscally responsible. • Comment – Speaker stated she does not like the terminology or comparison of French versus English. She stated they are all kids in the same educational system. Response – Director Costello indicated that the survey provides data and does not represent a vote on the options. • Comment – Speaker thanked the Board for providing community consultation meetings and indicated that the two options provided are viable options. He stated that the public needs to stop gazing at “what if’s” and work with the two good workable options presented. He favoured Option 2, and would be happy to see the Hillcrest location become a single track school. • Question – Would staffing be more favourable at a single track school? Response – Director Costello indicated that staffing at a single track school would be easier, as it would also attract qualified French personnel, teachers as well as support staff. There would also be supports and resources available for French Immersion teachers. • Comment – Speaker favoured a single track site. A super school is not realistic, when there are two existing school buildings which are fairly new and operational. Speaker stated the best way to avoid attrition is a single track 	

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	<p>school. Speaker also suggested the Board impose a 15 year freeze on any future French Immersion review in the Petrolia area.</p> <p>Response – Director Costello indicated the Board is dealing with declining enrolment across the District and therefore, could not provide a guarantee Regarding future program reviews. He did add that Petrolia’s enrolment projection is anticipated to be quite healthy over the next 5 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment – Speaker favoured Option 2, stating there would be better resources available for both schools. Both options would impact students and the socialization of students, however Option 1 would require boundary changes, whether they are in FI or not, which would cause further upset to the community. • Comment – Speaker indicated frustration that people within the community can not make a decision and do not attend meetings. Speaker stated that Option 2 may also increase enrolment at Hillcrest beyond capacity, necessitating the need for future additions and/or portables. Speaker stated he still felt the construction of a super school was the best option. • Comment – Once a decision is made, enrolments could vary and fluctuate making projections difficult. • Comment - Trustee McKinlay stated that the Ministry has already indicated that they will not support or fund the construction of a super school or building additions on two schools within the same community. As a Trustee, he would not endorse either recommendation to the Ministry, as only the most efficient capital proposals would be considered. He urged the community to make a decision on one of the two options provided. • Comment – Speaker indicated that the French Immersion review has placed fear among the community and has scared families into enrolling their children into the FI program. Response - Trustee McKinlay stated that he felt that Option 2, a single track school would demonstrate a true commitment by the Board to keep the French Immersion program in the Petrolia community. Response - Chair McGregor concurred with Trustee McKinlay. • Comment – Speaker wanted to know if Trustees would make a public appearance supporting the French Immersion program with a single track school. Response – Director Costello indicated if Option 2, a single track school was decided, that the Board would want the program to thrive, since it would be the first of its kind and unique with this Board. Other communities would be watching 	

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	<p>and interested in its success. Regarding the fluctuation of enrolment, Director Costello stated that the Board deals with that situation every spring when they compile enrolment data to complete the staffing process for each school within the District.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment – Speaker wanted to know if during future ARC sessions, that options could be submitted to Ministry in advance. Response – Superintendent Andruchow commented on the Board’s Capital funding process and stated that the Board works closely with the Ministry to obtain feedback with suggestions being discussed whether they are viable or not. • Comment – Speaker moved into the Petrolia area and favoured Option 2, which would have students attending and socializing together in the same building from JK through Grade 8. • Comment – Speaker favoured Option 2, and does not like siblings being split between two schools. There is a duplication of effort, with fundraising, school newsletters, parent teacher interviews, etc. • Question – Speaker asked if Option 2 were decided, if older students in grades 7 and 8 could be “grandfathered” and allowed to complete their elementary education at Queen Elizabeth school? Response – Director Costello indicated that could be a possibility, as the Board would be flexible and interested in providing a smooth transition for students. He also stated that there would be less change or impact on students when having the opportunity to attend JK through Grade 8 in one school. • Comment – Speaker indicated that there will be pros and cons for either option and that change is inevitable in order to address the enrolment concerns in the Petrolia area. • Comment – Director Costello confirmed that the Ministry looks at grouping of schools and would not build a new school with space in nearby schools. They look at capacity numbers and enrolment statistics. • Comment – Director Costello confirmed he is not promoting one option over the other, just gathering input from the community. • Comment – Speaker indicated there needs to be a decision made and urged the community to do so. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment – Speaker suggested that when additions are built that they be constructed to be energy efficient. Response – Director Costello indicated that when the new school, P.E. McGibbon was constructed last year, the Ministry provided many energy efficiencies, including solar glass panels complete with light sensors to turn lights on only when necessary. He stated that he is confident that the Ministry would construct with energy efficiencies in mind. 	
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record of Action will be completed and posted on the Board website. • Director Costello thanked both School Councils as well as the public for attending the consultation meeting. • Director Costello indicated that the survey was not the Board's document and that a request could be made to Denise Beaumont to update the survey results and provide a copy to both schools to be posted on their respective websites. Director Costello also stated that Denise may wish to complete and send out another survey with only the two options listed in order to have more concise results, however, that would require a tremendous amount of effort and time and he did not want to place any pressure on Denise to commit. • Director Costello encouraged the public to stay in touch with School Councils and to visit websites. 	J. Kovar
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 	