

**ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE
RECORD OF ACTION
PETROLIA AREA OF SCHOOLS**

Date: March 4, 2010

Location: Lambton Central Centennial School

Present: Committee Members: Gayle Stucke, Director of Education, Bert Phills, Superintendent of Education, Brenda Mann, Principal Hillcrest P.S., Dean Melton, Parent Representative Hillcrest P.S., Rosanne Orcutt, Community Representative Hillcrest P.S., Todd Hayward, Principal Queen Elizabeth II P.S., Mary Braet, Parent Representative Queen Elizabeth II P.S., Ross O'Hara, Community Representative Queen Elizabeth II P.S., Tony Mitchell, Principal Lambton Centennial P.S., Janet Vanderwerf, Parent Representative Lambton Centennial P.S., Phil Warner, Principal Lambton Central Collegiate Vocational Institute, Judy Krall, Parent Representative Lambton Central Collegiate Vocational Institute, Linda Smith, Community Representative Lambton Central Collegiate Vocational Institute, Jim Burns, Municipal Representative Township of Enniskillen, Don Seymour, Municipal Representative Town of Petrolia

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

Trustees: Jim Townsend, Elizabeth Hudie

Regrets: Marcia Charlton, Community Representative Lambton Centennial P.S.

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 Stucke thanked everyone for attending and reviewed the ARC process. • There was an omission on the agenda, following # 7, there will be an opportunity for questions/input from the Public. The public may also provide comments, questions and input through the Board website. • Director Stucke also noted that Superintendent Joy Badder, will be available to provide input on the FI review process. • Members agreed that there might be a need to extend this meeting beyond the 9:00 p.m. timeline. 	
Review of Record of Action (ROA) from the February 4, 2010 ARC Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Stucke invited Superintendent Joy Badder to share information on the stand alone French Immersion school option that the ARC committee was considering. • Superintendent Badder indicated that in our region many Districts have single-track F.I. schools. Thames Valley consultant indicated that some strengths to a single-track school included, more opportunities to use French outside the classroom and within the school environment, ie. announcements, assemblies. Resources would be mostly in French including the library. All staff may be 	

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	<p>bilingual, ie. Resource, Librarian, etc. More opportunity for all staff and students to interact and speak French. Research reports discussed and dating from 1979 to 2003, suggest that the environment within a single-track site was more conducive to the F.I. atmosphere. Research also indicated a negative perception in some situations regarding an exclusive FI environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the previous meeting the question was asked, how many elementary French Immersion students are currently taking a bus to school. This information was emailed to ARC members. Students currently bused in the FI Program, 94 Hillcrest and 26 Queen Elizabeth. Students currently bused in a Regular Program, 142 Hillcrest and 71 Queen Elizabeth. 	
Mandate of the Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) analyzes School Information Profiles, considers alternatives and makes recommendations that meet the educational and accommodation objectives of the Lambton Kent District School Board. Throughout the process the ARC consults with community members and provides opportunity for input into the analysis.</i> • Director Stucke reviewed the committee mandate which is to analyze data, consider alternatives and make recommendations to the Board. 	
Website Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Stucke encouraged everyone to explore the ARC link on the Board website which provides the opportunity for committee members as well as the public to ask questions or make suggestions. The Question and Answer section of the website is regularly updated throughout the ARC process. 	
Review of Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petrolia Area of Schools is a unique area in the District as the demographics indicate this is an area where growth is evident. Hillcrest and Queen Elizabeth schools are both beyond capacity, while Lambton Centennial has some space available. • During the February 4th meeting, the committee brainstormed 9 tabled options and after creative discussion, successfully narrowed the scenarios down to 5 options to consider. • ARC members were electronically sent Weighing of Options forms, which included detailed pertinent data for each of the 5 Options that the committee was asked to consider. These forms are posted on the Board website along with the March 4th agenda. 	
Analysis of each Option (Pros and Cons)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent Phills guided the process that the committee would take developing pros & cons for each of the 5 Options. • Committee members were reminded to keep an open mind, and may want to drop or remove an option if the discussion determines that it should not be considered or pursued further, if consensus is reached among the members. • A detailed review, including the pertinent data took place providing an 	

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	<p>opportunity for questions and input from the committee members, which culminated with a completed list of Pros and Cons for each Option.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A complete summary of the Pros and Cons for each option is noted below. • Option A – Boundary adjustment to move students from the town of Petrolia to Lambton Centennial Pro's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No discussion Con's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No discussion After reviewing data, Committee decision not to further consider this option. • Option B – A stand alone French Immersion school JK-8 at Hillcrest P.S. Pro's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Numbers fit ○ Fewer students dropping out in upper grades Con's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ May not have number register if single track ○ Students leaving program would affect neighbouring schools ○ Form of segregation • Option C – Move the JK-8 French Immersion Program to Lambton Centennial Pro's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Future growth in Petrolia can be accommodated ○ Cheapest building costs ○ Allows students who leave FI to stay in same school? ○ Allows FI staff and resources to work together ○ FI students already bused ○ Quick implementation Con's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Capacity numbers considered will require computer lab, library and bookroom to be adjusted ○ Students may leave if the FI program is moved out of town ○ Increase in bus costs ○ No FI parent support for moving from Petrolia • Option D – Build additions to accommodate growth at both Hillcrest and Queen Elizabeth public schools Pro's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Least amount of change and impact on students and families ○ Additions are located where population resides ○ Option chosen by Queen E population feedback ○ Hillcrest population choice Con's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upkeep of older buildings could be a factor 	<p>J. Kovar</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Odour return? ● Option E – Build a new school to consolidate Hillcrest and Queen Elizabeth II P.S. Pro's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Good time to lobby government for funding support ○ Draw people to move into Petrolia ○ Address past odour and mould concerns ○ Land sold could support more residential growth ○ Program for JK-8 students would be positive as primary-junior-intermediate connections Con's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding model through Ministry of Education lengthy timeline – possible 5 years ○ Portables on site until construction ○ Local business will suffer if Hillcrest closes ○ Price of new building ○ Large school population to manage 	
Questions from Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comment - Scott Watson, Hillcrest Parent Expressed appreciation to the committee for their effort. Stated that he appreciated the stand alone F.I. Option was removed. As a community he felt that scenario would create segregation among the Petrolia community. He had spoken to 6-8 families and no one had wanted students bussed out of town and felt that this would impact F.I. numbers. Everyone he spoke to, favoured Option D, involving additions to Hillcrest and Queen Elizabeth schools. ● Comment – Brent Campbell, Future Parent from Oil Springs Stated that he was opposed to adjusting the boundary lines. Indicated that Option C, moving all F.I. students to Centennial would impact a significant number of students with a very high impact on families. ● Comment - Bryan Baxter, Hillcrest Parent While he grew up and attended Centennial, his children attend Hillcrest. Opposed to Option C as it would impact hundreds of families. Supports Option D as it would have the least impact on students. The children and families are what is important. ● Comment – Jacquie Milligan, Hillcrest and Queen Elizabeth Parent Stated that her two children attend F.I. and she does not support Option C indicating that bussing would be a headache. ● Comment - Nigel Wonnacott, Hillcrest and Queen Elizabeth Parent Stated that his two children attend Hillcrest and Queen Elizabeth school in the F.I. program. He does not support Option C and indicated that he supported Option D to build on to the existing schools. ● Comment - Kelly McAuslan, Centennial Parent 	

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	<p>Feels that most of the Options favour Petrolia. Would not have a problem with her son being bused to Dawn. She does recognize that something has to change to accommodate the capacity issues.</p>	
Discussion of Preferred Option/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After in depth discussion, committee members agreed not to pursue and to remove Options A, B, C and E. Consensus was reached to make a recommendation using Option D, which was to build additions to accommodate growth at both Hillcrest and Queen Elizabeth Public Schools. The committee felt that this option had the least amount of change and impact on students and families in the Petrolia Area of schools. 	
Recommendation to Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director Stucke commended the ARC members on the entire process that lead to reaching consensus. The ARC will provide an Accommodation Report, indicating the consensus of the committee for Option D, to the Board of Trustees on April 13, 2010. Director Stucke will prepare a draft report, including what options were considered, and send it out to the committee asking for input or confirmation. Upon agreement of the committee, the report will go to the Board Meeting on April 13, 2010 at the Chatham Regional Education Centre. The committee agreed that it was not necessary to include the ROA from each ARC meeting since they are posted on the board website. Members were encouraged to attend the Board Meetings and asked to identify a parent ARC member to present the ARC report to the trustees at the April 13th Board Meeting. 	<p>G. Stucke will draft report</p> <p>Parent ARC member to present Report to Board</p>
Next Steps – review of timelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record of Action will be completed and sent electronically to all Committee Members and will be posted on website within a week. April 13, 2010 – ARC report to Board. April 27, 2010 – Administration recommendation to Board. June 22, 2010 - Board of Trustees will vote on recommendation. Opportunities to bring delegations to the Board between Apr 27 and June 22. Members and public were encouraged to continue to use the website to communicate effectively. 	<p>J. Kovar</p>
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. 	