

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

Date: February 24, 2010
Location: Ridgetown Moravian E.S.
Present: Committee Members: Gayle Stucke, Director of Education, Jim Costello, Superintendent of Education, Todd Tiffin, Principal Ridgetown P.S., Heather Simpson, Parent Representative Ridgetown P.S., Carol Kloostra, Principal Ridgeview Moravian E.S., Jane Lawton, Parent Representative Ridgeview Moravian E.S., Jim Brown, Community Representative Ridgeview Moravian E.S., Mark Hunt, Principal Ridgetown District H.S., Susan Kelner, Parent Representative, Ridgetown District H.S., Renee Geluk, Community Representative, Ridgetown District H.S., Katharine Hopkins, First Nation Representative

Resource Personnel: Lorie Vandeschoot, Planning & Reporting Officer, Tracey Childs, Recorder

Trustees: Ruth Ann Dodman and Randy Campbell

Regrets: Marsha Coyne, Municipal Representative, Municipality of Chatham-Kent and John Ford, Community Representative Ridgetown 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 recognized Trustees Ruth Ann Dodman and Randy Campbell. 	
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. 	
Review of Record of Action (ROA) from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Todd Tiffin indicated the School Profile for Ridgetown P.S. should indicate, on page 3, there are 9 Smart Boards instead of 10. 	T. Childs – revised Ridgetown P.S. and

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the January 25, 2010 ARC Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Hunt indicated the School Profile for Ridgetown District H.S. should indicate, on page 2 and 5, the Library Clerk is 0.2. • Heather Simpson indicated the “Value to the Local Economy (B)”, of the Ridgetown P.S. School Profile, should indicate there are students that support local restaurants during nutrition breaks. • The committee agreed the Record of Action from the January 25th meeting was accurate with the exception of Heather Simpson’s surname being recorded as Heather Smith and will be amended on the previous Record of Action. 	<p>Ridgetown District H.S. School Profiles will be posted on the Board’s website.</p>
Website Update and Goderich Field Trip (Avon-Maitland DSB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no new questions sent to the website since the January 25th meeting. • The committee was invited to share their experiences on the Goderich field trip. • Todd Tiffin, not knowing what to expect, was impressed by all groups - there were no negative comments or feedback - 2 elementary schools and 1 secondary school – Gr. 7 & 8 students were moved to the secondary school – 1 elementary school was closed and both elementary schools combined – very positive. • Susan Kelner explained the Gr. 7 & 8 students were in a separate wing from the secondary school students – shared gymnasium, library, science labs, etc. – only concern would be not enough gym time for the Gr. 7 & 8’s but that was being reviewed. • Jane Lawton - student comments were very positive - Gr. 6’s were now the oldest in the school – the Gr. 7 & 8 students, at first, felt they were missing out on being “top dog” but this factor would no longer exist when the current Gr. 6’s move on – Gr. 7 & 8’s were happy overall to be in the secondary school setting with the older students. • Bullying was not an issue – with the consolidation and moving to the secondary school it was easier for Gr. 7 & 8’s to make new friends. • Gr. 7 & 8 suspensions decreased significantly – only 1 suspension issued thus far. Truancy and tardiness had dropped significantly. • Todd Tiffin and Mark Hunt - collaboration between the Gr. 7 & 8 	

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	<p>teachers and the Gr. 9 teachers – students were definitely at an advantage because of the networking between teachers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What percentage of elementary students were bussed? 5% of students are currently bussed to the elementary school. • Would there be any thought of combining the 2 Unions in the future with elementary and secondary being in the same school? Currently, significant planning and sharing occur within our 2 teacher groups. Director Stucke stated that would require legislative change. • The Goderich model has an elementary Principal and Vice-Principal in the JK-6 school and a secondary Principal and elementary Vice-Principal in the 7-12 school building. • The Avon-Maitland school representatives have accepted an invitation to share their experiences with our school communities at a public meeting in April. 	
<p>Review of Issues Identified/ Consideration of New Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Stucke reviewed the 3 identified issues from the January 25th meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Declining enrolment – both elementary and secondary, 2) Smaller budgets – fewer staff, program opportunities and 3) Students leaving town to attend secondary programs in other schools. • No other issues were identified. 	
<p>Brainstorming of Alternatives/Options</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Stucke asked for brainstorming of all possible scenarios. • All schools remain status quo: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pros: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ enjoy the family environment/feeling; ○ would be the least disruptive option, to the local economy, for students and families. Cons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ fear of students moving away due to lack of program; ○ funding issues; ○ split grades; ○ not enough students or supervision for extra-curricular 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> activities; ○ leaving it status quo may appear that we are non-progressive; ○ divisional teacher meetings may suffer due to lack of staff members; ○ less supports to students available ie. Resource or Spec. Ed. Support; ○ staffing and supervision obligations are harder to meet due to smaller staff; ○ if we don't do something about the viability of our schools someone else may make these decisions for us. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consolidating two elementary schools into one JK-8 and leave secondary school 9-12: Pros: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a good size elementary school (less than 400 students); ○ leave space in the secondary school to allow for paid partnerships with the Ridgetown College and University of Guelph. We are pursuing potential partnerships at this time; Cons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ there is no additional impact to help the secondary school; ○ need a long term solution; ○ some believe 400 in one school is too large. ● Move all elementary students to the high school and transport secondary students to other secondary locations. The committee agreed not to pursue. ● Moving JK-12 into one school building. The committee agreed not to pursue. ● Consolidate two elementary schools into one JK-6 (313 students) with 7-12 in secondary school: 	

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	<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ better use of facilities; ○ very positive feedback from Goderich visit, where it is working well; ○ social advantages for gr. 7 & 8 students with larger number of classmates; ○ enriched the environment for the JK-6 students; ○ student numbers are more evenly dispersed between one elementary school and one secondary school; ○ more program opportunities; ○ more funding because of more students in the secondary school; ○ if gr. 7 & 8's have a positive experience in the secondary school there would be a more positive experience throughout their secondary years. <p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ more students would require transportation; ○ possibility that it wouldn't increase secondary enrolment; ○ timetabling would have to ensure adequate gym time for gr. 7 & 8 students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Join 7-8 (109 students) in one elementary school, JK-6 (313 students) in one elementary school, secondary remains 9-12. The committee agreed not to pursue. ● JK-3 (178 students), 4-8 (244 students); 9-12 (296 students). The committee agreed not to pursue. ● Partnership with St Clair Catholic DSB and Lambton-Kent DSB for secondary school level. Director Stucke has approached Director Wubben and will be discussing this alternative. 	
Questions/Input from the Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Question – Sherry Anderson (Ridgetown P.S. parent) If we close 1 elementary school and put gr. 7 & 8's in the secondary school what would happen to students who do not 	

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	<p>mesh? Answer – change/transition would be gradual and implementation would not take place until September 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question – Sherry Anderson What do they do at recess? Jane Lawton Answered – Separate recesses and lunch breaks for gr. 7 & 8 students are separate from secondary school students. Balanced day schedule makes this very workable. • Comment – Kimberly Galbraith (Ridgeview Moravian E.S. parent) Status quo option should not be pursued. We need to do the right thing for our children’s education. Children will gain if more students are in one school. • Stacey Stojak (teacher and parent) Comment – if gr.7 & 8’s move to Ridgetown District H.S. she believes it would attract more students from the separate school. • Question - Stacey Stojak What happens to Gr. 7 & 8 DD students if they move out of the elementary school and into the secondary school? Jim Costello Answered – Spec. Ed. Classes are offered where numbers warranted. 	
Questions from the Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question – Can we survey the gr. 7 & 8 students and ask what they want? Answer – Principal’s will initiate conversation with students. Students could come to ARC meetings to comment. Questions could be asked of the Goderich students when they come to visit. • Question – what if we need an additional meeting? Answer – Director Stucke will investigate possible dates. 	
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record of Action (ROA) will be completed and sent electronically to all Committee Members and will be posted on the website within a week of the meeting. Between April and June the public can let Trustees know how they feel about the recommendations. Implementation of a change would not occur until September 2011. 	T. Childs
Dates of Future Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future meetings will be 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. School tours will take place at 6:30 p.m. for anyone interested. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 29, 2010 at Ridgetown District High School • April 13, 2010 – A report will go forward to the Board • April 27, 2010 – Administration will have reviewed recommendations and will make a recommendation to the Board • June 22, 2010 – Trustees vote on the recommendation 	<p>Delegations may be made at Board meetings on May 11, 2010, May 25, 2010 or June 8, 2010</p>
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. 	