

**TRANSITION COMMITTEE
 RECORD OF ACTION
 RIDGETOWN AREA OF SCHOOLS**

Date: January 24, 2011

Location: Ridgetown Public School

Present: Committee Members:

Also Present: Trustee Scott McKinlay

Director of Education Jim Costello,
 Superintendent of Education Dave Doey,
 First Nation Representative Katherine Hopkins
 CUPE President, Irene Duff
 ETFO Vice-President, John Neville
 OSSTF – Barb Young

Delaware First Nation Councillor Jody Joseph

Ridgeview Moravian Elementary School Representatives

Principal	Mary Lynn Anderson
Teachers	Mark MacDonald and Geraldine Van de Kleut
School Council Co-chairs	Jane Lawton, Lynette Scott
Clerical/Custodian	Andrea West
Education Assistant	Stacy Sojak
Students	Luke VanRychehem and Mackenzie Taylor-Noah
Community	Kim Galbraith

Ridgetown Public School Representatives

Principal	Todd Tiffin
School Council Chair	Heather Simpson
Teachers	Denise Desbiens and Jenny Sheppy
Educational Assistant	Terri Konecny
Clerical/ Custodial	Eileen Osborne
Students	Jillian Carter, Valerie Gotelaer
Community	Barb McAllister

Ridgetown District High School Representatives

Principal	Mark Hunt
School Council Chair	Susan Kelner
Teachers	Kathleen Osborne and Deb Verhart and Elsa Natvik
Clerical/Custodial	Michell Jones and Ken Osborne (alternate Carolyn Oliphant)
Students	Lisa deNijs and Sunny Baek and Megan Logan
Community	Renee Geluk

Regrets: Terri Konecny, Lisa deNijs, Sunny Baek and Megan Logan

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 And Introductions	Mr. Tiffin welcomed everyone. Mr. Costello had three items to mention: Agenda was developed from the Transition Action Plan and can be altered if committee wishes. Plant management and principals were at RHDS for a visit two weeks ago to discuss alterations to the site. A retired principal is being hired to help co-ordinate the transition process.	
Review of Questions and Answer Session with Representatives from the Avon Maitland District School Board	No questions	
Recommendation from Naming Committee	48 names were submitted "Naahii Ridge Public School" was recommended. Name will be considered at Board meeting on Jan 25, 2011	
Transportation and Bell Times	Mr. Costello began the discussion with reference to a question that was raised at the March 29, 2010 ARC Meeting Question: Are Gr 7 & 8's going to be bussed at the same time as secondary students or elementary students? Answer: It would make sense to bus the Gr 7 & 8's on the elementary schedule. Mr. Costello stated that currently bussing is shared with the SCDSB (St. Michael's) and two tier bussing would dictate the start times. At this point the plan is for Gr 7 & 8's to start at the same time as RMES. The Resource and French teachers may have to travel between two buildings so times would have to be the same as RMES for this to work. Question: What is the start time at RMES? Answer: 9:15.	Mr. Costello will talk to Transportation Department and Superintendent of Business about bussing and start time options.

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	<p>Mr. Costello asked committee members for input on start times.</p> <p>Comment: Earlier start time is better because of child care.</p> <p>Comment: Can do more activities with family with an early dismissal time.</p> <p>Comment: Same start time (for all elementary students) would be good because oldest daughter can help get kids ready for school.</p> <p>Comment: Little ones early start will be a problem for them getting on buses at 7:30 am.</p> <p>Question: Would more children need to be bussed? Answer: Distances to qualify for bussing won't change – 1.6 km for elementary and 3.2 km for secondary students.</p> <p>Question: How will students be getting into the school if they start at the same time as secondary students? Parents are worried about the unknown and have concerns about Gr 7 & 8's safety. Answer: Entrance point is near their classes, so it should not be a problem. Mr. Hunt stated that it would be possible to make the entrance available only to Gr 7 & 8 students.</p> <p>Comment: A student stated that the separate doors would be a good idea because there would be no intimidation for the smaller students from the secondary students.</p> <p>Comment: A committee member stated that he attended a Gr 7 to 12 school and there were no issues with students being picked on and they all used the same doors.</p> <p>Comment: A committee member stated that logistics should not rule children's education and that we need to ask questions and get answers.</p> <p>Trustee McKinlay cautioned that Trustees are not considering changing back to a single run system.</p>	

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	<p>Mr. Hunt stated that we have three options, all with pros and cons. Both start at 8:40 RDHS start at 8:00 and RMES start at 9:15 Both start at 9:15.</p> <p>Mr. Costello said that he would go back to transportation department and to Superintendent of Business to ask more questions for clarification of options.</p>	
<p>Create an opportunity for staff at current schools to work together in long term planning of student achievement agendas</p>	<p>Principals have started discussions.</p> <p>RPS and RMES teachers have already worked together for a half day, on a PA Day. Teachers would like to network and develop relationships. Once teaching assignments are figured out it would be great to have opportunities for teachers to meet and plan with teachers of like grades.</p> <p>Question: How is staffing done? Parents would like to know. John Neville addressed this issue later in the meeting.</p>	<p>Mrs. Anderson and Mr. Tiffin will arrange opportunities for staff members to work together once staffing assignments have been confirmed.</p>
<p>Discussion re: need to merge elementary school councils into one entity with representation from both schools.</p>	<p>RMES has invited RPS for a meeting on Thursday Feb. 3, 2011 at 6:30 pm. It will be an informal meeting to brainstorm ideas.</p> <p>Mr. Costello commented that he felt this will be a good opportunity to begin discussions.</p>	
<p>Review staffing process.</p>	<p>Mr. Costello stated that Superintendent Gilfoyle is in charge of staffing schools and has been meeting on a regular basis with ETFO (teacher's union).</p> <p>John Neville said there is a basic framework to map the school in regards to rooms and grades. We will be following the contract.</p>	<p>Mrs. Anderson will be talking to all teachers regarding their preference of teaching assignment for next year.</p>

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	<p>Teachers will know before the staffing process begins so they can put in a transfer request if they wish.</p> <p>Mr. Costello said we are hoping to have 4 teachers at RDHS with 21-22 students per class.</p> <p>Question: Is it possible for students to know who their teacher will be in June instead of waiting until September? Answer: It may be possible.</p> <p>Comment: It would be nice if the students could go to the school in June to meet their teacher and see their classroom.</p>	<p>Meetings will occur with Board, Union and principals soon.</p>
<p>Sub-Committee update</p>	<p>School Orientation Sub-Committee: Chair -Kathleen Osborne The committee met recently and discussed a number of potential ideas, which were shared with the transition committee. Superintendent Doey commented that they had a pretty impressive list of ideas. He asked if they could please come back with list of events and potential dates to help ease parent fears.</p> <p>Question: Are more activities for the kids in younger grades being planned?</p> <p>Answer: Mr. Tiffin and Mrs. Anderson said that some things have happened already and that teachers from both schools have been in contact with each other to plan ways to bring students together. For example, last week JK/K, Gr.1/2 & 2/3 from both schools met at RMES for a friendship craft and treats.</p> <p>Graduation Sub-Committee: Chair -Eileen Osborne The committee met recently and began discussions. They have looked at similar and differing awards at both schools. They are moving towards awards of excellence instead of subject awards.</p> <p>Memorabilia Sub- Committee: Chair - Stacy Sojak The committee met recently and has several ideas. One suggestion is</p>	<p>Sub-committees will continue to meet and report back at next Transition Committee Meeting.</p>

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	<p>that a flat screen tv will be placed in the front hall at RMES which will scroll through various photos from the past. They plan to contact Ridge House Museum to offer some of the old pictures. The Delaware First Nations Community would like to have a photo of the old day school, which was in their community.</p> <p>Other ideas: Pennants – will go back 10 years. Sell off old pennants, uniforms, etc to raise money for the school (perhaps for purchase of new uniforms).</p> <p>Resource/Materials Sub- Committee: Chair – Geraldine Van de Kleut The committee is mapping out all areas that decisions needed to be made on and taking inventories. They have done a walk through at RMES already and plan to do one soon at RPS.</p> <p>Mr. Costello stated that the Board will be hiring movers to pack the library items. Mr. Tiffin mentioned that the committee did not need to inventory furniture in the school since the principals have been asked to take care of that. Decisions will be discussed with staff.</p> <p>Mr. Costello advised the committee about definition of capital items (\$500.00 or 3 years more life) Computers will be looked after by the Board IT department, based on predetermined school allotment.</p> <p>School Day Scheduling Sub-Committee: Chair – Mr. Hunt This was addressed during bell time discussion earlier in the meeting.</p> <p>Special Events Sub- Committee: This committee has not yet begun. Barb McAllister indicated that she would be interested in being a member when it starts.</p> <p>Colours/Jerseys/Mascot Sub-Committee: This committee may begin once the new school name has been formally approved by the Board. Mr. Costello suggested that Mrs. Anderson should take the lead on this one.</p>	

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Questions.	Question: Where will we have our recesses? Answer: Mr. Hunt stated that the staff parking lot is being resurfaced and will have basketball courts and and fencing.	
Next Meeting: March	RMES - Monday March 28 th at 6:30 pm	
Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Mr. Tiffin thanked Trustee McKinlay for attending.	