

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

Date: December 6, 2010

Location: Ridgetown District High School

Present: Committee Members:

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

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
Students	Luke VanRycheghem 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

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
<p>Welcome And Introductions</p>	<p>Mr. Costello welcomed everyone and explained the format for the evening. Representatives from the Avon Maitland District School Board would be joining the meeting via Adobe Connect to facilitate dialogue. They were provided with questions from the elementary schools in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>A tour of the area at Ridgetown District High School that the grade 7 and 8 classrooms will be located in was conducted prior to the start of the meeting.</p>	
<p>Questions & Answer Session with Representatives from Avon Maitland District School Board Staff and Parents</p>	<p>Question As parents, how can we ensure that our grade 7 & 8's remain an active part of the elementary school so they don't lose that connection?</p> <p>Answer <i>In Goderich for the first year, started with 7 and 8s as part of elementary school, but changed to being part of secondary school. In Avon-Maitland Board generally, 7 and 8s do not go back to elementary nor express a desire to be part of the elementary school. The focus is on being an integral part of the 7-12 school)</i></p> <p>Question Were there any things that you wish you had done differently - advice that you can pass on to us to make this transition year easier?</p> <p>Answer <i>A number of examples were given that all reflected the need to familiarize the 7 & 8s with the High School prior to their arrival in September.</i></p> <p>Question What are some ways that you made this experience less traumatic (worrisome?) for children involved in the transition? i.e. -keeping friends together when they started the "new school" . ensuring teachers from both schools are at the "new school" to make students feel comfortable, -welcoming the entire community into joint activities</p>	

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	<p>Answer <i>Tried to balance classes coming from the feeder schools as much as possible. We spent a considerable amount of time on the composition of the classes based on interviews with the elementary school teachers and principals.</i></p> <p>Question School teams: how did they change with the merging of the school, and the increase in population?</p> <p>Answer <i>Teams were stronger as a result of drawing from larger populations, more opportunities across the board for all teams and clubs, more availability</i></p> <p>Question As the school teaching staff increased, were there more clubs and teams as a result? (as we hear constantly that the reason we don't have teams and clubs is because our teaching staff is stretched).</p> <p>Answer <i>Same as above.</i></p> <p>Question Avon-Maitland went through transition and is now into it's 2nd year of the model, are there still transition issues to be dealt with, are you still working the kinks out or is the model a complete success?</p> <p>Answer <i>The Avon-Maitland examples have existed for over 10 years in two Stra and are in their 2nd year in two other schools. All four schools have been successful and Avon-Maitland intends to further expand the model to other next year.</i></p> <p>Question Has the community embraced the new model? Is there a strong school spirit/presence in the community?</p> <p>Answer <i>The model and the spirit of the new schools surpass their predecessors. model continues to advance.</i></p>	

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	<p>Question What one thing would you do differently?</p> <p>Answer <i>Transition planning could always be more thorough.</i></p> <p><u>Questions from the Students:</u></p> <p>Question Will there still be extra-curricular activities such as newspaper, student council and enrichment?</p> <p>Answer <i>Co-curricular activities are enriched with the new model, including opportunities to practice with the High School Varsity team, High School drama productions, etc.</i></p> <p>Question How will lunches and recesses work?</p> <p>Answer <i>All Avon-Maitland grades below Gr. 9 experience a Balanced Day. They have access to the cafeteria. They do not have their Nutrition Breaks during the High School lunch. They have a Gr. 8 Graduation.</i></p> <p>Question Will the washrooms be separate?</p> <p>Answer <i>Avon-Maitland 7 & 8s for the first number of years have a washroom associated with their wing of rooms. During these initial years, High School students do not mingle with 7 & 8s in their washroom.</i></p> <p>Question Where will elementary assemblies be held? How often will elementary students go back to the elementary school?</p> <p>Answer <i>Grade 7 & 8s participate in all High School assemblies, because they are not High School assemblies per se, but rather assemblies for the whole 7-12 school. Students only go back the elementary school for special activities such as a Fund Raising event. The Grade 4-8 Track</i></p>	

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	<p><i>and Field Day was held at the High School because the High School had superior facilities.</i></p> <p>Question Did the bus times change?</p> <p>Answer <i>The Avon Maitland District School Board has single tiered busing so there was no change.</i></p> <p>Question How do the elementary students know whose bell is whose?</p> <p>Answer <i>The Avon Maitland District School Board does not use bells for class changes or period changes with the 7 & 8s.</i></p> <p>Question Will elementary students be able to use the gym, cafeteria, science labs, etc?</p> <p>Answer <i>Grade 7 & 8 students do have access to all of the Facilities in their new school.</i></p>	
Sub Committees Update	No reports were presented. All Sub-Committees have been encouraged to meet at least once or twice prior to the January 24, 2011 Transition Committee Meeting where sub-committee reports will be given.	
Next Meeting Date	Next Meeting: January 24, 2011 @ 6:30 p.m. at Ridgetown Public School	
Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.	