

PRESENT:

Trustees: Chair Jane Bryce, Vice-Chair Elizabeth Hudie, Scott McKinlay, Randy Campbell, Ruth Ann Dodman, Dave Douglas, Jack Fletcher, Tom McGregor, Scott McKinlay, Bob Murphy, Lareina Rising and Shannon Sasseville (via teleconference)

Student Trustees Keaton Jennings

Staff: Director of Education Jim Costello, Superintendent of Business Brian McKay, Superintendents of Education Angie Barrese, Gary Girardi, Helen Lane, Taf Lounsbury

Regrets Student Trustee Ayla Jacobs and Superintendents of Education Mark Sherman and Phil Warner,

Recording Secretary: Trish Johnston, Executive Assistant and Communications Officer

Call to Order: Chair Bryce called the Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#2017-34
Approval of the Agenda
Feb/7/2017 Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Elizabeth Hudie,
"That the Agenda for the Special Board Meeting of February 7, 2017 be approved."

CARRIED.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest: No declarations of conflict of interest were issued.

Delegation: Chair Bryce advised Andrea Walden that she had ten minutes to address the Board.
Andrea Walden, Parent of Bosanquet Central School Students
Andrea Walden stated that she lived on a farm just outside of the Village of Thedford and advised that she was a parent representative on the Forest Area Schools Accommodation Review Committee. She commented on public education in rural areas; advised that the school communities are saddened at the potential loss of their schools; and shared that they appreciate the financial pressure the Board is under. She noted that this situation is unique in the province because the group is focused on working with the Board. She stated that the three main points of her delegation were that North Lambton needs a viable secondary school; the school should be located near the Shores Recreation Centre in Forest and the LKDSB and Municipality of Lambton Shores should work together to utilize the existing sports facilities in the community; and the focus of the proposed Kindergarten to Grade 12 school should be STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).
In response to Trustee Fletcher's question Andrea Walden advised that she would be speaking to Council at their meeting next week.
Chair Bryce thanked Andrea Walden for her delegation.

Final Staff Report for the Consolidation of Aberarder Central School, Bosanquet Central School, Kinnwood Central School and North Lambton Secondary School into a Kindergarten to Grade 12 School Report B-17-19
Director Costello presented the Final Staff Report (FSR) on the Consolidation of Aberarder Central School, Bosanquet Central School, Kinnwood Central School and North Lambton Secondary School into a Kindergarten to Grade 12 School. He explained that the FSR is presented in three sections: background information including enrolment data and financial considerations; discussion of the accommodation review process; and Senior Administration's recommendations and rationale for consideration. Chair Bryce explained that Trustees will be able to ask questions after each section. Director Costello explained that the LKDSB is currently facing two main challenges – declining enrolment and limited finances, both of which are linked. He advised that the funding is pupil-based and when the student enrolment moves up or down, so does funding. He commented on the

LKDSB budget shortfalls. He stated that on October 4, 2016 the LKDSB Pupil Accommodation Report and Initial Staff Report for the Consolidation of Aberarder Central School, Bosanquet Central School, Kinnwood Central School and North Lambton Secondary School into a Kindergarten to Grade 12 School at the Kinnwood Site was presented to Trustees. Trustees approved the establishment of an Accommodation Review Committee for this consolidation of the Forest Area schools. He presented the school demographics and facility and property information for the respective schools. Looking ahead over the next 10 years, the LKDSB's projections indicate a continuing decline in enrolment. He shared that the demographic data provided by the County of Lambton indicates declining populations in the Municipality of Lambton Shores and the Town of Plympton-Wyoming. The *Draft County of Lambton Official Plan* projects population growth for the City of Sarnia. This is not expected to have a significant influence on the population projections for the Forest Area of Schools catchment area. The enrolment comparison chart for the Forest Area of Schools over the past 10 years indicates an overall decline in enrolment at each of the schools. He referenced the LKDSB enrolment projections for the next 10 years, which show a continued decline in enrolment for all schools. He commented that the Ministry's report *Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario* document, places strong emphasis on the need for school boards to be fiscally responsible. He referenced the changes the Ministry made to the funding grants making it no longer fiscally sustainable to continue to fund empty pupil spaces in schools. The 2017/2018 budget will be based entirely on the new funding model. The Ministry continues to offer the enhanced top-up funding portion with eligibility criteria based on road network distance between facilities and eligible schools will continue to receive top-up to 100% of the school's capacity. To be eligible, elementary schools must be at least 10 km away from the next closest school of the Board and secondary schools must be at least 20 km away from the next closest secondary school of the Board. He explained that once the new model for top-up funding is completely phased in, the LKDSB will lose \$4,047,129 on an annual basis without changes to the number and location of its schools. The LKDSB, under the new top-up funding formula, will receive funding for only 11 elementary schools rather than its current 47 elementary schools, and only 3 secondary schools rather than its current 12 secondary schools.

Director Costello outlined the transportation options prepared by the Manager of Chatham-Kent Lambton Administrative School Services Consortium (CLASS) based on the Kindergarten to Grade 12 school at the Kinnwood site. CLASS researched two scenarios which are outlined in the FSR. Option 1 involves all four student populations at a Tier 1 bell time which is estimated to need 4 additional full-size buses. CLASS anticipates no significant increases to ride times overall for current Kinnwood Central School or North Lambton Secondary School students. The total estimated annual cost increases would be \$87,000.

Option 2 involves Grades 9-12 at a Tier 1 bell time and Kindergarten to Grade 8 students at a Tier 2 bell time. Bus routes for North Lambton Secondary School and the coterminous elementary school would remain largely unchanged. Bus runs servicing Aberarder Central School and Bosanquet Central School students would be restructured. The total estimated annual cost increases for option 2 is \$96,000. Director Costello stated that should the consolidation take place at a different location in the vicinity of the Town of Forest, there may be slight changes to the number of students within walking distance, but the bus times and number of buses would likely remain the same.

Superintendent Girardi explained that people were comfortable with the busing model they were used to at the beginning but the discussions changed during the

process. The Forest area has shared busing with the elementary and secondary students riding the same buses. At Aberarder and Bosanquet Central Schools elementary and secondary students ride separate buses. Further discussion would be necessary should the decision be made to consolidate the schools. Superintendent Girardi presented information on the accommodation review process. He noted it is the second year that the LKDSB has been operating under the revised Ministry process. He explained that the Accommodation Review process consists of five components: the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC); Public Meetings; Community Consultations; Public Delegations to Board of Trustees; and Meetings with LKDSB Staff. He explained that the ARC represents the schools under review and acts as the official conduit for information shared between the school board and the school communities. He referenced the chart in the Final Staff Report that outlined the Orientation Session and two ARC Working Meetings. It includes a summary of the discussions and presentations by committee members, CLASS and the architectural firm, ROA Studio Inc. Information on the visit to Walkerton District Community School is also included. He outlined the themes of the issues/items discussed at the ARC working meetings.

He advised that Administration received requests for boundary changes along the western portion of the Aberarder Central School catchment area. Petitions were received proposing boundary changes and submissions to keep the existing boundaries intact. Any boundary change would impact enrolment at the consolidated school.

Superintendent Girardi presented a summary of the Public Meetings. Municipal representatives attended the meetings. He outlined the issues/items discussed at the Public Meetings which included boundary change proposals and the impact on the long-term viability of secondary school program, the location of the Kindergarten to Grade 12 consolidated school and the grant application process.

He advised that Senior Administration met with municipal and community partners as part of the public consultation process. A summary of the meetings is included in the FSR.

Superintendent Girardi stated that the LKDSB shared information on the accommodation review process on the LKDSB and school websites. The FSR includes a summary of these pages and the website hits. There is a dedicated webpage for the Forest Area of Schools Pupil Accommodation Review which outlines the process and timelines and Records of Actions from the meetings. As well, a Frequently Asked Questions webpage was established to provide additional information and answer questions from the public. The school sites contain information about the process and dedicated Pupil Accommodation Review webpages. The schools' websites also posted information about the Initial Staff Report; the dates of public accommodation review meetings and Board meetings; the process on how to submit requests to delegate; school profiles; frequently asked questions; the Accommodation Review email (arc@lkdsb.net); and overall timelines. In addition to the information shared on the LKDSB and school websites, information about the October 4, 2016 Special Board Meeting decision by Trustees to establish the Forest Area of Schools Pupil Accommodation Review Committee, as well as dates of public accommodation review meetings and deadlines for submitting requests to delegate, were shared on the LKDSB social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter).

Superintendent Girardi advised that the Addendum to the Final Staff Report would

include a summary of the delegations made to the Board of Trustees. The Addendum to the Final Staff Report will be presented to Trustees at the March 21, 2017 Special Board Meeting. Trustees will be asked to vote on the recommendations at the Special Board Meeting.

He advised that Senior Administration met with the Presidents of CUPE, ETFO and OSSTF to discuss the Pupil Accommodation Review process. School administration and union leaders hosted a meeting for Senior Administration at each of the respective schools named in the Pupil Accommodation Review. Senior Administration has on-going conversations with CLASS Transportation Consortium representatives.

Trustee Rising commented that she was aware of the concerns related to the integration of Kettle and Stony Point students at the Grade 9 level. Superintendent Girardi confirmed that the concerns were discussed at the ARC working meetings. Administration is committed to putting supports in place for all students who would not be attending the Kindergarten to Grade 8 portion of the school. He advised that there have been follow-up discussions with the representatives from Kettle and Stony Point. He noted that school administration currently works with them to provide opportunities for students to make connections at the secondary school and this would continue. The goal is to create bonds for students and staff prior to the transfer to make the transition easier. Director Costello commented on the transition activities that occur now with all of the schools.

Trustee McKinlay referred to the enrolment reduction of 80 elementary students and 120 secondary students over the past 10 years. He noted that the 10 year enrolment projections indicate a reduction of 120 elementary students and 22 secondary students. Director Costello explained that other schools feed into North Lambton Secondary School in addition to the schools in the review (Grand Bend Public School, East Lambton Elementary School and Kettle Point Hillside School) and they are not included in the projections. As well, the projected enrolment from students attending coterminous schools is not included. Director Costello stated that Senior Administration uses Baragar software to project enrolment based on the demographics. North Lambton Secondary School (NLSS) has always held its enrolment over the years. Trustee Sasseville commented on the large jump in data from historical to projections. Administration will confirm the projections.

Trustee Murphy joined the meeting.

Trustee McKinlay referred to the request for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs at the consolidated school. Superintendent Girardi commented on the discussions on offering programs related to the local community and the current programs available at NLSS. Trustee Fletcher commented that he had the impression that the representatives wanted STEM as well as art and music programs.

Chair Bryce stated that the recommendations are for information only at this Board Meeting. Superintendent Girardi explained that Recommendations 1 and 2 and the corresponding rationale will be presented together as they are similar except for the location of the Kindergarten to Grade 12 school.

Recommendation #1 - "That the Board approve the consolidation of Aberarder Central School, Bosanquet Central School, Kinnwood Central School and North Lambton Secondary School into a Kindergarten to Grade 12 School on a site to be determined as of September 1, 2020 and the submission of grant applications

to the Ministry of Education for funding for the construction of the new school and the acquisition of land; and that the Board close Aberarder Central School, Bosanquet Central School, Kinnwood Central School and North Lambton Secondary School as of July 1, 2020.”

Recommendation #2 - “That the Board approve the consolidation of Aberarder Central School, Bosanquet Central School, Kinnwood Central School and North Lambton Secondary School into a Kindergarten to Grade 12 School on the Kinnwood Central School Site as of September 1, 2020 and the submission of grant applications to the Ministry of Education for funding for the construction of the addition and the acquisition of land adjacent to the Kinnwood Central School Site; and that the Board close Aberarder Central School, Bosanquet Central School and North Lambton Secondary School as of July 1, 2020.”

Superintendent Girardi stated that in the Forest Area, three of the four schools are under capacity for student enrolment and have a significant number of unfunded pupil spaces. All four of the schools require significant capital work, according to both the 5 and 10-year Facility Condition Index (FCI). The schools are located less than 20km from each other. Geographically, all three elementary schools surround the town of Forest and all three schools feed into North Lambton Secondary School. Top-up funding for both Aberarder Central School and Kinnwood Central School will be phased out by the start of the 2017/2018 school year. Senior Administration believes consolidating these schools will allow the LKDSB to improve the learning environment and enhance programs for the foreseeable future, while achieving financial efficiencies and maintaining a strong school presence in this area of the district. This consolidation into a Kindergarten to Grade 12 school would result in a total combined enrolment in 2020 of approximately 1,038 students. Significant dialogue has taken place during the Pupil Accommodation Review process in regard to the organization of a Kindergarten to Grade 12 school. The model of intermediate grades located in a secondary school is successfully demonstrated in two locations in the LKDSB (Ridgetown District High School and Wallaceburg District Secondary School). As well, the Accommodation Review Committee toured Walkerton District Community School on January 11, 2017, which is a Kindergarten to Grade 12 school, where access to specialized areas has been successfully implemented.

Should the LKDSB be granted funds for the construction of a new school or for the construction of an addition to the Kinnwood Central School site, Senior Administration would establish and seek input from a Transition Committee on the architectural design of the proposed school. The use of specialized areas in a school could be achieved while still maintaining an individual identity in the elementary portion of the school. There would be opportunities for senior students to take on leadership and mentoring opportunities with the elementary students. Positive program enhancements could occur in the intermediate years of Grade 7 to Grade 9. There is the potential for the broadening of program delivery in these grades. The Kindergarten to Grade 12 school would also reduce the transition from an elementary to a secondary school, creating greater opportunity for staff to support literacy and numeracy needs of the students who attend this school. All grades would have access to specialized areas of the school, a modern athletic facility and more concentrated support staff. This increased opportunity coincides with the Ministry’s Experiential Learning initiative which calls for schools to provide opportunities for intermediate students to have hands-on and activity-based learning experiences. The LKDSB would like to engage its community partners to assist in developing a building that would be beneficial to student learning, but also embrace the traditions of Kettle and Stony

Point First Nation, the Municipality of Lambton Shores, the Town of Plympton-Wyoming, and Warwick Township.

Superintendent McKay presented the summary of enrolment and financial data. There is no significant cost differential between the Tier 1 and Tier 2 busing models. Should the consolidation occur for a Kindergarten to Grade 12 school, the final decision regarding bus transportation and school bell times would remain with Senior Administration and CLASS, with input from the Transition Committee. The summary of the estimated annual financial savings from the proposed consolidation were referenced. There would also be utility cost savings in the initial years after the consolidation. There are expected savings in the administrative component which would result in reductions in the School Foundation Grant. He noted that the project savings would be balanced against the anticipated increase in transportation costs which could be absorbed in the current transportation envelope.

Superintendent Girardi outlined the requests for school boundary changes. A delegation was made at Public Meeting #1 requesting a change to the western portion of the boundary of the current Aberarder Central School catchment area to redirect students to Errol Village Public School. Administration received three petitions, each proposing that a section of the western portion of the current Aberarder Central School catchment area be redirected to Errol Village Public School. Administration also received one petition asking for no boundary changes to take place. During their delegation at Public Meeting #2, representatives from the Town of Plympton-Wyoming suggested a boundary change to the present elementary catchment area for Aberarder Central School. Superintendent Girardi stated that a summary of the petitions is included in the FSR. The FSR includes maps of the current school boundaries and Administration's proposed boundary for the consolidated school. Administration has analyzed the requests to change the boundaries. Any change in boundaries in this area will potentially hinder the long-term enrolment viability of the Kindergarten to Grade 12 school and will affect programming for the secondary panel of the school. Therefore, Administration supports maintaining the present boundaries identified for the Kindergarten to Grade 12 school. The FSR includes a chart outlining the 5-year history of North Lambton Secondary School's catchment area feeder schools choice of secondary school. The majority of graduates from Aberarder Central School (the school identified in the petitions requesting boundary changes) chose to attend North Lambton Secondary School.

It was noted that Aberarder Central School is the LKDSB's only school with drinking water provided from a well supply. Ontario Clean Water (OCWA) is the qualified Drinking Water System Operator for Aberarder. OCWA provides management, maintenance and operation services; the service includes 24/7 response to alarm calls.

Superintendent Girardi stated that during the accommodation review process, the LKDSB hired ROA Studio Inc. to inform the ARC members and Administration on the potential construction associated with consolidation. At the request of Administration, ROA Studio Inc. sent representatives to Working Meeting #1 and #2 to explain their role in the process and to gather input to create a vision for the proposed Kindergarten to Grade 12 school on the Kinnwood Central School site. Trustee Fletcher questioned why the Board would submit two recommendations to the Ministry. Superintendent Girardi stated that in the Initial Staff Report Administration presented a recommendation for the consolidation at the Kinnwood Central School site. Superintendent Girardi explained that, based on

Ministry input, the addition to Kinnwood Central School was a stronger application for funding purposes. ARC members supported the option for a consolidation school on a new site. He advised that like last year, the LKDSB could submit two applications to the Ministry. Director Costello stated that Recommendation #2 is a backup plan for funding if the new build funding is denied. Superintendent McKay advised that each grant application is considered on its own. The funding applications cannot move forward without the Board approving motions.

Director Costello confirmed that the site to be determined for the new build would be open to discussion if funding was received.

Trustee Rising commented on the concerns raised at the ARC meetings about separate entrances for elementary and secondary students and more separation between elementary and secondary students. Director Costello referred to the concept drawing and outlined the area for the elementary students and the separate secondary student section. Superintendent Girardi commented on the discussion about grade division in the consolidated school. There will be further discussions with the community if the funding is received.

Trustee Murphy referred to the Top-Up funding phase out in 2019 and the 2020 completion date for construction of the consolidated school. He asked how the funding loss would be addressed. Superintendent McKay advised that the plan is to do some of the construction while the funding is available. The plan also involves allocating funds from the plant and maintenance funding areas proactively. He acknowledged that 2017/2018 budget year will be tough until some of the savings from the accommodation reviews are realized.

Superintendent Girardi presented Recommendation #3 - "That the Board approve the closure of Aberarder Central School and the consolidation of the students with the Kinnwood Central School students at the Kinnwood Central School Site as of July 1, 2018 if funding is not provided by the Ministry for the construction of a Kindergarten to Grade 12 school at a site to be determined or for an addition at the Kinnwood Central School Site." He explained that should the LKDSB not receive Ministry funding for Recommendation #1 or Recommendation #2, the LKDSB would close Aberarder Central School and consolidate these students at Kinnwood Central School in September 2018. The projected population for Kinnwood Central School in 2018 is 263 students and Aberarder Central School in 2018 is 106 students, for a combined total of 369 students. The present capacity of Kinnwood Central School is 331. The LKDSB would utilize its own capital funds to accommodate the increase in student enrolment. Superintendent McKay explained that the LKDSB would use School Condition Improvement funding to enhance the school environment. The closed classrooms could be reopened to accommodate students. An application could be made to the Ministry for a Capital Priorities Grant through in the summer.

Superintendent Girardi presented Recommendation #4 - "That the Board dissolve the Forest Area Schools Accommodation Review Committee." He explained that this is the practice of the LKDSB.

He presented Recommendation #5 - "That the Board approve the establishment of an Ad Hoc Naming Committee to recommend to the Board a name for the consolidated Kindergarten to Grade 12 Aberarder Central School, Bosanquet Central School, Kinnwood Central School and North Lambton Secondary School and appoint two Trustees to serve on the Committee."

He advised that it is the practice of the LKDSB to establish an Ad-Hoc Naming

Committee when schools are consolidated. Administration would look to form a Transition Committee as well.

Superintendent Girardi advised that Appendix A of the FSR outlines the final comments from ARC members for inclusion in the FSR. He expressed appreciation to the ARC members for their work and their dedication.

Chair Bryce thanked the ARC members as well and Administration for the Final Staff Report. She thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting.

Adjournment
7:41 p.m.

There being no further business, Chair Bryce declared the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and Secretary of the Board