

PRESENT:

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

Student Trustees Ayla Jacobs, Keaton Jennings

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

Regrets Trustee Bob Murphy, Superintendents of Education Angie Barrese 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. and explained that since it was a Special Board Meeting no other items could be added to the Agenda.

#2017-53
Approval of the Agenda
Mar/21/2017 Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Randy Campbell,
"That the Agenda for the Special Board Meeting of March 21, 2017 be approved."
CARRIED.

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

Addendum to the 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-17-29

Director Costello presented the Addendum to the 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. He noted that it is the final part of the overall pupil accommodation process that began on October 4, 2016 with the presentation of the Initial Staff Report to Trustees. Trustee decisions can shape the future for the next 50 years in the Forest area. He commented that the monies saved through school consolidations allow for LKDSB resources to be spent fairly across fewer but fuller schools. Trustee decisions impact students across the entire LKDSB. He commented on the Ministry's direction to school boards regarding their duty to consolidate schools where necessary and advised that the Ministry had created pools of taxpayer monies to allow for grants to renovate and rebuild schools to make them more energy efficient for the next generation. He stated that the Ministry has also been clear in its direction to school boards that they must consult with their communities to insure public consultation has occurred in an authentic and meaningful way. During this review, Administration received over 40 pieces of communications in support of the proposed consolidation. Many Forest area students, parents and community members are supportive of the recommendation for a consolidated school and see the logic. He encouraged everyone to keep the students at the heart of the decisions.

Director Costello commented on the delegations made to the Trustees at the February 7 and 28, 2017 Board Meetings. He noted that throughout the pupil accommodation review process, the majority of Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) members acknowledged the advantage of the creation of a Kindergarten to Grade 12 school. A significant amount of communication has been received by LKDSB staff and Trustees regarding this possible consolidation. There appears to be strong support for a new consolidated school on a new site in the Town of Forest. There have been four petitions submitted to alter the boundary of the southwest portion of the catchment area of Aberarder Central

School and one petition submitted in support of maintaining the boundaries outlined in the FSR.

Director Costello commented on the importance of a variety of program offerings for secondary students. This is best accomplished when facilities are conducive to creating a stimulating learning environment designed to meet the needs of all pupils within fiscal parameters. In addition to achieving an economic efficiency the consolidated school will offer sufficient range of programs in a modern facility to meet the needs of a diverse student population in the Forest area. He noted the strong agriculture focus at North Lambton Secondary School. The Kindergarten to Grade 12 school would reduce the transition from an elementary to a secondary school, creating greater opportunity for staff to support literacy and numeracy needs of students. In addition, all grades would have access to specialized areas of the school, a modern athletic facility, science labs and a more concentrated support staff. Positive program enhancements could also occur in the intermediate years of Grade 7 to Grade 9. There is the potential for the broadening of program delivery in these grades. This increased opportunity coincides with the Ministry's Experiential Learning initiative which calls for schools to provide opportunities for intermediate students to experience activity-based learning. North Lambton Secondary School (NLSS) is a rural school which provides a full range of courses for all of its students consistent with other secondary schools in the LKDSB. It also offers Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs with area of focus in agriculture, construction and health and wellness. It is the LKDSB's plan that these programs will continue in a Kindergarten to Grade 12 school. Increased awareness of the SHSM program across a larger student population will encourage the continuation of the program. A consolidated school would provide an opportunity to reflect the unique culture of the area to benefit student learning and embrace the traditions of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, the Municipality of Lambton Shores, the Town of Plympton-Wyoming, and Warwick Township. The importance of maintaining the Rosemary Wolfe Centre at the new site was noted. The Municipality of Lambton Shores has expressed interest in working with the LKDSB to create a community hub, whereby services that are available at The Shores Recreation Centre could be shared with a consolidated school constructed on a nearby site. As well, the existing Kinnwood Central School Best Start Hub could be relocated to a new Kindergarten to Grade 12 site.

Director Costello explained that school boundaries are primarily established for balanced student distribution. Proximity to nearby schools is a secondary factor. Any change to the boundary will result in fewer students attending the secondary portion of the consolidated Kindergarten to Grade 12 school in Forest as Errol Village Public School is a feeder school to Northern Collegiate Institute and Vocational School (NCIVS). Chatham-Kent Lambton Administrative School Services (CLASS) data confirms that there are a number of examples across the district where students residing near a boundary edge may be closer to an out-of-catchment area school. Director Costello suggested that a boundary review could be done in the future in a larger context, including other areas like Blue Point. He commented that he is sympathetic to the requests to revise the boundary but does not support a revision. He presented maps demonstrating the requests outlined in the petitions received and the proposal from the Township of Plympton-Wyoming. The data associated with the requests has been reviewed. A five-year history of the NLSS catchment area feeder school students' choice of secondary school was explained. He explained that there are three additional elementary schools that feed into NLSS – East Lambton Elementary School,

Grand Bend Public School and Hillcrest School. Any change to the boundary would result in fewer students attending the secondary portion of the consolidated Kindergarten to Grade 12 school in Forest.

Director Costello reviewed the transition plan that would be implemented if the recommendation for the consolidation was to be approved. A Transition Committee would be formed. Administration has had positive experiences with this model in the past. Transition Committees form sub-committees depending on the consolidated school needs. It is the practice of the LKDSB to form a naming committee for the consolidated school. The LKDSB has a regulation to govern the process.

Director Costello outlined the steps taken as part of the accommodation review process: Public meetings, Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) meetings, Public delegations to Trustees at Board Meetings, Meetings with local municipal officials and Meetings with school staff and union representatives.

He explained that after reviewing the information gathered during the accommodation review process, Senior Administration upholds the recommendations contained in the Final Staff Report (FSR) and submits the following recommendations without modification. He expressed his respect for the staff, students, parent/guardians and community representative for their contributions to the process.

In response to Trustee Fletcher's question, Director Costello explained that boundary changes are approved by the Board. Senior Administration could identify a need or community representatives could express a concern to Senior Administration and Administration would bring a recommendation to Board for approval.

In response to Trustee Campbell's question, Superintendent McKay advised that a new school requires 20 to 24 acres depending on the shape of the building. Administration has not explored land costs as yet. In discussions with the Ministry a place holder for an amount was submitted. Administration would work with the Ministry if approval was received.

Vice-Chair Hudie pointed out that the lack of rural funding and declining enrolment were beyond the control of the LKDSB. She commented on Administration's creative solutions and the support from the community and Municipalities. She thanked everyone involved for their assistance.

#2017-54
New Kindergarten to
Grade 12 Consolidated
School on a New Site -
Aberarder, Bosanquet,
Kinnwood Central Schools
and North Lambton
Secondary as of
September 1, 2020

Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Elizabeth Hudie,

"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."

Trustee McGregor questioned if there was a priority between recommendation #1 or #2 and if recommendation #1 was approved would recommendation #2 be omitted. Director Costello confirmed that recommendation #1 was the first choice and #2 was a backup. Superintendent McKay commented on his positive

discussions with the Ministry regarding recommendation #1 and associated grant application. Administration feels it has provided a good case to the Ministry but the LKDSB is up against other school boards. Superintendent McKay advised that the grant application for the new build was about \$28M based on Ministry bench marks. The grant addition at Kinnwood Central School was for almost \$19M plus the cost of land which would be about \$23M. Superintendent McKay advised that based on Ministry timelines, successful grant announcements are expected by the middle of May. Director Costello confirmed that Administration would be in regular contact with the Ministry representatives over the next few months.

In response to Trustee Sasseville question, Director Costello advised that Superintendents McKay and Girardi have communicated with the Ministry representatives that recommendation #1 is the preferred choice for the LKDSB. Superintendent Girardi confirmed that conversations with Ministry representatives are ongoing and they are well aware of the vocal support from the community. Superintendent McKay confirmed that the \$28M for a new school on a new site does not include land costs. Trustee Rising commented on recommendation #1 being the only option and proposed delaying recommendation #2 noting that recommendation #2 is not the option that the First Nation community would hope for. Trustee Dodman expressed concerns about a school being landlocked and questioned the acreage needed for the recommendations. Superintendent McKay confirmed that Administration would not want to be landlocked. He noted that the land around The Shores Recreation Centre would allow frontage road access and plenty of room. Superintendent McKay stated that the grant application for recommendation #2 included an option to purchase a piece of land to the south of the current property for the addition at Kinnwood Central School.

Chair Bryce clarified that recommendation #2 was not on the floor as yet. Once it is one the floor, Trustees could turn the motion down, change the language or refer it back to Administration.

Trustee Rising confirmed that the First Nation community is in total support of recommendation #1 and not recommendation#2.

CARRIED.

Moved by Scott McKinlay, seconded by Tom McGregor,

“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.”

Trustee McKinlay noted that recommendation #2, to build an addition to Kinnwood Central School for the consolidated Kindergarten to Grade 12 school, was not brought to the floor for discussion. He noted that if the LKDSB does not receive funding for the building of a new school, the LKDSB would not be doing anything to enhance the secondary school in Forest. He commented that the community indicated that it needs a vibrant high school in Northern Lambton County and questioned if the Board could apply in the future. Director Costello confirmed that North Lambton Secondary School would remain as is if funding was not received for construction of a new school and that other school boards have resubmitted grant applications to the Ministry in the past without conducting another ARC.

In response to Trustee Sasseville's question regarding reapplying for funding during the next cycle, Superintendent McKay advised that when other school boards have reapplied under the grant program they have left the application the same to maintain the status of the grant application and Motion passed by the school board. If the LKDSB closed Aberarder Central School, the grant application would be altered and no longer valid. He confirmed that the closure of Aberarder Central School would materially change the Ministry grant application. The LKDSB would have to turn down recommendation #3 to be in line with the Ministry grant application. It is likely that the ARC process would have to be re-established.

Superintendent McKay explained the Ministry's two grant programs. Currently, the LKDSB is applying for funding under the School Consolidation Capital. The Ministry has experienced a drop in the number of applications submitted for these grants. The LKDSB could reapply next winter if the Ministry does not make any changes to application process. The other grant application opportunity is the Capital Priorities Grant. This is the grant that the LKDSB applied for and received funding for the consolidated Great Lakes Secondary School and Plympton-Wyoming Public School. Applications are submitted to the Ministry in July with announcements coming in late October. These grants are highly subscribed by school boards. They are for additions and renovations impacting programs and enrolment.

It was suggested that the Motion be withdrawn until recommendation #2, the addition at Kinnwood Central School, was discussed.

The Mover and Seconder agreed to withdraw the Motion from the floor.

Moved Scott McKinlay, seconded by Elizabeth Hudie,

"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."

Moved by Tom McGregor, seconded by Dave Douglas,

"That the Motion be amended to add to the recommendation *If funding is not provided by the Ministry to proceed with building a new school on a new site.*"

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Douglas supported having a backup plan for the schools, noting the age of the buildings.

Trustee Rising expressed concern over having a backup plan. She commented that she heard from the communities that the most preferred option was the construction of a new school on a new site. She would support reapplying for the new build noting that this is the overwhelming choice of the First Nation and other community members. Trustee Sasseville commented on the strong support for a

new school that was voiced by the community. She supported giving the Ministry process a fair chance noting that it may take more than one application.

Trustee Fletcher requested a Recorded Vote	Yes	No
Trustee Rising		X
Shannon Sasseville		X
Jack Fletcher		X
Randy Campbell	X	
Ruth Ann Dodman		X
Scott McKinlay	X	
Dave Douglas	X	
Tom McGregor	X	
Elizabeth Hudie		X
Jane Bryce	X	

MOTION DEFEATED.

Moved by Dave Douglas, seconded by Jack Fletcher,

“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.”

Trustee Rising questioned if it would make the application more onside if the wording were changed in the Motion to add until a response is received from the Ministry regarding funding. Superintendent McKay commented that the Ministry may discount the Aberarder Central School facility backlog and that may weaken the impact of the Motion passed to build a new school on a new site and future application. He confirmed that approving the closure of Aberarder Central School would jeopardize the Motion passed to build a new school on a new site.

Trustee McKinlay commented that he supported building a new school but thinks the community would also support an addition at the Kinnwood Central School site rather than nothing. He noted the financial constraints facing the LKDSB. Trustee Sasseville commented on the opportunity to go back and revisit the option of an addition to Kinnwood Central School at a future date if funding is not received for a new school on a new site and options available through different grant applications.

Trustee Rising requested a Recorded Vote

<u>Non-Binding Student Trustee Votes</u>	Yes	No
Keaton Jennings		X
Ayla Jacobs		X
<u>Binding Votes</u>		
Lareina Rising		X
Jack Fletcher		X
Dave Douglas	Abstained	
Ruth Ann Dodman		X
Shannon Sasseville		X
Randy Campbell		X
Scott McKinlay		X
Tom McGregor		X
Jane Bryce		X
Elizabeth Hudie		X

MOTION DEFEATED

Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Randy Campbell,

“That the Board dissolve the Forest Area Schools Accommodation Review Committee with thanks.”

It was suggested that the ARC not be dissolved until word is received from the Ministry regarding funding. Director Costello confirmed dissolving the ARC is not part of the Ministry grant application process. The Ministry requires a Board approved Motion for the application. Chair Bryce commented that generally committees are formed to complete a specific job and when completed they are dissolved. The ARC members have fulfilled their duties and brought forward recommendations. Director Costello confirmed that there is not a Ministry Moratorium on revisiting schools before five years but it is a recommendation. He advised that some school boards have had success in resubmitting the same grant application to the Ministry. The Board could re-establish an ARC if it decides to revisit the community as part of a future accommodation review.

Chair Bryce confirmed that a Trustee voting on the prevailing side of the Motion could bring back a Motion to reconsider the Motion at a future meeting. The Motion would require a 2/3s vote to be reconsidered.

MOTION DEFEATED.

#2017-55
Ad Hoc Naming
Committee for the
consolidated Kindergarten
to Grade 12 in Forest

Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Scott McKinlay,

“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.”

Moved by Tom McGregor, seconded by Ruth Ann Dodman,

“That the Motion be amended to add to the end of the sentence *in the event that the Ministry approves the grant request for the construction of a Kindergarten to Grade 12 school.*”

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION CARRIED.

AMENDED MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Bryce referred to Director Costello’s Pupil Accommodation Report presented to Trustees in November 2015 and quoted “The significant reduction in funding and the immediacy of its impact demands that the LKDSB act to implement a multiyear plan in the interest of fiscal responsibility and enhanced student learning. While this new reality presents significant challenges and changes to the LKDSB, it also provides opportunities to reshape the Board to provide enhanced learning environments for our students.”

Chair Bryce stated that the recommendations made by Director Costello and the members of Senior Administration are made in the best interests of all students regarding more equitable access to programs, are made in the interest of maintaining fiscal responsibility over the long term, and are based on an assessment of the age and quality of LKDSB buildings.

She quoted the November 2015 Pupil Accommodation Report again noting “This

process can lead to a LKDSB which has fewer but fuller schools which will be more efficient to operate. This will allow resources to be allocated equitably to all students, while promoting student success for all."

Chair Bryce thanked the Trustees for their time and deliberations. She expressed deep gratitude to the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) members for all their work and the advice they provided.

Adjournment
7:50 p.m.

There being no further business, Chair Bryce declared the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and Secretary of the Board