

**CHATHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
TRANSITION COMMITTEE
MINUTES / RECORD OF ACTION**

Date: November 13, 2017

Location: Tecumseh Public School, 287 McNaughton Ave. W, Chatham, ON, N7L 1R8

Present: Committee Members: Daphne Zondag, Principal, John N. Given Public School, Nicolle Evans, Teaching Staff Representative, John N. Given Public School, Jenn Jackson, Teaching Staff Representative, John N. Given Public School, Shawna Ray, ECE Staff Representative, John N. Given Public School, Dana Goodall, Clerical Staff Representative, John N. Given Public School, Melanie Hadlock, Student Representative, John N. Given Public School, Della Lambkin, Parent/Community Representative, John N. Given Public School, Chris Moore, Principal, Tecumseh Public School, Kristin Heaton, School Council Chair, Tecumseh Public School, Carrie-Lynn Brown, School Council Co-Chair, Tecumseh Public School, Susan Bond, Teaching Staff Representative, Tecumseh Public School, Cristina Haskell, EA Staff Representative, Tecumseh Public School, Yvette Caron, Clerical Staff Representative, Tecumseh Public School, Maclean Norris, Student Representative, Tecumseh Public School, Gabriella Ostropec, Student Representative, Tecumseh Public School, Kevin Hadlock, Parent/Community Representative, John N. Given Public School, Theresa McFadden, Parent/Community Representative, Tecumseh Public School

Resource Personnel: Angie Barrese, Superintendent of Education – Program: Special Education, Gary Girardi, Superintendent of Education – Capital Planning and Accommodation, Helen Lane, Superintendent of Education – Program: Leadership and Equity, Chris Riley, Indigenous Liaison, Jaime Shannon, Recorder

Regrets: Laurel Liddicoat, President, LK-ETFO, Dave Doey, Facilitator of the Transition Process, Jolene Greenbird, First Nation Representative, Tecumseh Public School, Debbie Smeltzer, CUPE 1238 President, Judy Rountree, Teaching Staff Representative, Tecumseh Public School, Dylan Purdy, Student Representative, John N. Given Public School, Daloni Van Goethem, School Council Chair, John N. Given Public School

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	Superintendent Girardi welcomed those in attendance to the meeting and explained to the committee that he would be chairing the meeting in Facilitator Dave Doey's absence.	

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Traditional Territory Acknowledgement	Student Representative Melanie Hadlock read the Traditional Territory Acknowledgement.	
Review of Agenda	The agenda was reviewed and there were no changes or additions.	
Review of Record of Action – October 17, 2017	The Record of Action was reviewed by the committee and there were no questions or concerns from the committee.	
Follow-up to the Mascot Naming Process for the Transition Committee – Helen Lane, Superintendent of Education, and Chris Riley, Indigenous Liaison	<p>Superintendent Girardi explained that the Ad Hoc Naming Committee will be presenting its recommendation to Trustees on November 14, 2017 that the name Tecumseh Public School be retained as the name of the consolidated school. He said that the responsibility of the Transition Committee, once a school name is approved by Trustees, is to decide on the school mascot and colours.</p> <p>Chris Riley and Superintendent Helen Lane were invited to the meeting to provide their perspective on the mascot name, “The Braves”, should Tecumseh Public School be approved as the name of the consolidated school.</p> <p>Superintendent Lane explained that last January The Deputy Minister sent a letter to all Board Directors asking for a review of all school names, logos, and mascots. At that time, there were conversations with LKDSB staff and the four First Nation partners, and the majority of names were approved as being appropriate and respectful. She said that “The Braves” drew some concern, and because John N. Given and Tecumseh Public Schools were going through the consolidation process it was felt that the conversation would be more appropriate at this time.</p> <p>Chris Riley remarked that he has had an opportunity to discuss mascots and school names with the local First Nation communities. He said that Tecumseh is held in very high regard amongst Anishinaabe people for what he stood for. He added that when he first saw Tecumseh Public School he said to himself, “Wow the things they must be learning in that school”, because of Tecumseh’s accomplishments and efforts he learned about growing up.</p>	

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	<p>Chris Riley explained that Tecumseh's name prior to Tecumseh was Zhaawano-Naango, which relates to the star or a shooting star. He said that he always heard a story growing up about this man who was in front of those opposing him and all of his followers behind him. He said those opposing him drew a line in the sand and said if he crossed that line then this is when the battles would begin, and from that day forward he was known as Tecumseh, which means "to cross". He noted that these stories are not in books as they came from the elders.</p> <p>Chris Riley explained further that "The Braves" is very offensive to some, as its use can be perceived as derogatory. He said that Indigenous people did not give themselves the name "The Braves" so what would give someone a right to call them that. He said that something held in common for Indigenous people across North America are that eagle feathers are held in a very high regard and are very sacred. He said that something sacred like that being used in a manner that's not viewed as respectful, while the intent is probably good, could be hurtful. He said that there is something achieved by a person in order to wear a headdress so it is very symbolic.</p> <p>Chris Riley noted that there have been discussions in relation to the totem poles at Tecumseh Public School and said that there is nothing wrong with having the totem poles at the school as long as the school is sharing their roots so people can have the proper association with them. He said that the symbols don't have to be from the local area. He noted that not all Indigenous People have in the past used teepees or horses and the same would go with the totem pole.</p> <p>Principal Zondag mentioned that there was a discussion about the possibility of changing the spelling of Tecumseh in the name of the school. Chris Riley responded that there is a larger margin of error using phonetic spelling because of how the language's sounds are used. He said that writing systems differ from region to region but most common is the double vowel system. He said that this system is not standardized so there is no one way to spell Tecumseh.</p> <p>Superintendent Girardi asked Chris Riley if he felt the spelling as is would be a good way to move forward. Chris Riley responded yes, and unless you are learning the Indigenous language it wouldn't be used in the double vowel system.</p> <p>Committee member Sue Bond asked if stars or shooting stars would be respectful to use. Chris Riley responded that it would be good, because it would</p>	

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	<p>not be referring to a person by how they look or dress or what they have done, and it would be based on the meaning of the name. He explained that it is not the meaning of Tecumseh but would be symbolic to who he was prior to Tecumseh.</p> <p>Superintendent Girardi asked Chris Riley if he would be willing to attend a meeting in the future to provide his perspective on a mascot name and on certain items in the school. Chris Riley said that he is happy to help if he can.</p> <p>Superintendent Lane remarked that she was really impressed with how far things have come since she was the Superintendent responsible for John N. Given Public School and said that it is exciting to get to this point of looking forward to bringing the schools together.</p> <p>Superintendent Girardi thanked Chris Riley and Superintendent Lane for attending the meeting and sharing their perspectives.</p>	
Principal Reports	<p>Principal Moore provided an update on the transition process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holiday Family Fun Night on November 30 which is a Super Kids joint venture. It will be an evening drop-in with families, and the night will be based on healthy eating, exercise, and healthy living with stations on sugar in pop, healthy lunchables, swag for those in attendance, and fresh fruit and vegetables. • There was a Halloween dance held for the north side schools, and there may be another one prior to the holiday season. <p>Principal Moore noted that projected enrolment numbers would help him see what classes and the layout of the building might look like.</p> <p>Principal Zondag provided an update on the transition process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John N. Given Public School and Tecumseh Public School FDK to Grade 2 students are going on a field trip to Sloane's on December 1. The two schools could not share buses as planned. • John N. Given Public School will hold a farewell meeting on November 28, 2017 for any interested alumni and community members to help plan final events. It will be advertised via posters and Twitter, and Principal Zondag will follow-up with Heather Hughes, Communications Officer, to see if she can help advertise. 	

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<p>Follow-up to Meeting with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent</p>	<p>Superintendent Girardi explained to the committee that the architects updated the parking lot plan for Tecumseh Public School. He explained that the new plan was a combination of two designs that came out of the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) last year with slight alterations due to recommendations from the Transition Committee.</p> <p>The updated plan includes a smaller parking lot on the northwest corner of the building in order to extend the bus bay for ALLP student drop-off closer to the school. Principal Moore noted that the architects have also planned a lockable swing gate to separate the parking lot and front drop-off area, which was not displayed in the picture.</p> <p>Superintendent Girardi reported that the LKDSB met with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent in regard to the cross walk suggestions from the committee at the previous meeting. He noted that the meeting went well and the Municipality will perform a traffic and cross walk study in the area in order to decide if they will move the cross walk from the west side to the east side of building. Principal Moore added that the Municipality will complete these studies to see who is using it now and what impact it would have in order to consider the entire community.</p> <p>Committee Member Sue Bond asked if lighting in the parking lot will be addressed. Superintendent Girardi responded that when the parking lot area is redone everything will be updated. He also mentioned that there was a conversation with the Municipality in regard to the number of tennis players using the parking lot in the morning.</p> <p>Superintendent Girardi noted that some ARC members were concerned about the line of sight for staff due to the trees and shrubbery at the back of the school yard. He said that a walkthrough of the yard was completed with Chatham Police Youth Officer Derek Shaw and there is a plan to trim some of the trees at the back campus near the fitness track.</p> <p>Committee member Kevin Hadlock suggested that lights be added to that area of the school yard.</p>	
<p>Correspondence from Community Member</p>	<p>Superintendent Girardi explained that the ARC email address received a piece of correspondence on November 1, 2017. The writer suggested that the</p>	

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	<p>consolidated school adapt the John N. Given Public School mascot name, “The Raiders”. He noted that the correspondence was passed on to committee members prior to the meeting, but suggested that the conversation be held until the name of the consolidated school is decided upon. He said that the sub-committee will decide on the process to choose the mascot and that he can provide examples from past committees.</p>	
<p>Updates from Sub-committees</p>	<p><u>Memorabilia</u> Committee member Della Lambkin, Chair of the sub-committee, reported that the sub-committee has started an inventory list and will meet again to figure out next steps.</p> <p><u>Resources</u> Committee member Cristina Haskell, Co-Chair of the sub-committee, reported that staff is still purging and cleaning and by March they will establish what needs to be moved or kept.</p> <p><u>Traditions and Identity</u> Committee member Sue Bond, Chair of the sub-committee, reported that the sub-committee will move forward with any decisions once the name of the school has been approved.</p> <p>Superintendent Girardi noted that the recommendation on the school name will be presented to Trustees at the Board Meeting on November 14, 2017.</p>	
<p>Questions/Suggestions from the Committee and Public</p>	<p>There were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting.</p> <p>Question: Committee member Sue Bond asked if there is a deadline for picking the mascot and colours.</p> <p>Response: Superintendent Girardi responded that there is no deadline for the sub-committee, but the decision may need to be made in time for the school to order uniforms.</p>	
<p>Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>The next meeting will be held at Tecumseh Public School on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.</p>	

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	Principal Zondag suggested that the meeting following the January meeting be held at John N. Give Public School to allow for a walkthrough of the school and to view memorabilia items.	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.	