

**ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE
RECORD OF ACTION (REVISED)
DRESDEN AREA SCHOOLS**

Date: November 16, 2009

Location: Lambton-Kent Composite School

Present: Committee Members: Gayle Stucke, Director of Education, David Doey, Superintendent of Education, Brad Holmes, Principal, Dresden Area Central School, Michael Pishl, Parent Representative, Dresden Area C.S., Stuart Kiar, Community Representative, Dresden Area C.S., Mary Lynn Anderson, Principal, Dawn-Euphemia School, Emily Faflak, Parent Representative, Dawn-Euphemia School, Wilma Sonneveld-Wright, Principal, Thamesville Area Central School, Scott Sproule, Parent Representative, Thamesville Area C.S., Darren Carther, Community Representative, Thamesville Area C.S., Ann Balkwill, Principal, Zone Township Central School, Jodi Robb, Parent Representative, Zone Township C.S., Jackie Beatty, Community Representative, Zone Township C.S., Rob Lee, Principal, Lambton-Kent Composite School, Barbara McCaughrin, Parent Representative, Lambton-Kent C.S., Lynda Weese, Community Representative, Lambton-Kent C.S., Emery Huszka, Municipal Representative Township of Dawn-Euphemia.

Resource Personnel: Lorie Vandeschoot, Planning and Reporting Officer, Janet Doyle, Recorder

Trustees: David Goldsmith, Carmen McGregor, James Townsend, Randy Campbell, Jane Bryce, Ruth Ann Dodman

Regrets: Marsha Coyne (Municipality of Chatham-Kent), Audrey Wagner (Community Rep., Dawn-Euphemia 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 and Introduction of Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Stucke introduced herself as facilitator of the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC). She also introduced the Board resource staff, and thanked everyone for attending. • Director Stucke reported that there was a Dresden Area community consolidation study in 2002 which consisted of three meetings. The biggest concern at that time was Zone Twp. Central School with an enrolment of 162 FTE; however, in that study the consensus was that no changes would be made at that time. The Board agreed, and has continued to monitor the issue of declining enrolment. • Committee members representing the Dresden Area of Schools' ARC introduced themselves and were asked to sign a communications list, as well as include contact information which would be confidential and utilized in sharing information among the committee members. 	

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<p>Review of Board Policy and Regulations on <i>Pupil Accommodation/School Closure</i>, and Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Guidelines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Stucke provided a brief overview of the accommodation review process relative to Ministry of Education guidelines and Board Policy. She also reviewed the Board Policy and Regulations on Pupil Accommodation/School Closure. Each committee member received a copy, and the documents are also available on the Lambton Kent District School Board website. Regulations provide direction on how to conduct the accommodation review study. Each October the Board is presented a Pupil Accommodation Report which is available in each school and on the website. • Director Stucke stated that there will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions when indicated on the agenda; however, committee members can ask questions at any time throughout the meeting. • The committee discussed the process of receiving questions from the public. The committee agreed that questions from individuals would be unlimited but that each question would have a 2 minute time limit. If individuals have more than one question they would be asked to move to the back of the line. Those asking questions will sign the sheet located next to the podium, indicating their name, address and relationship to the school. • The committee agreed that if there was a delegation who wished to make a presentation during a future meeting, a 10 minute time limit would be allotted. The delegation would be required to contact Director Stucke's office one week in advance of the next meeting in order for the agenda to be adjusted accordingly. 	
<p>Terms of Reference/Role of the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Stucke provided a brief overview of the Terms of Reference and explained how the ARC meeting dates were determined. • It was explained that the ARC assumes an advisory role and will meet a minimum of four occasions, with each agenda including an opportunity for questions and input from the public. At the conclusion of the final meeting, the committee will provide an Accommodation Report, including recommendations to the Board of Trustees, who will in turn, make a final decision about the future of all students in the Dresden area family of schools. • Director Stucke explained the role of this committee, working together in a collaborative and respectful manner. If a consensus on recommendations is not met, there will be a vote. The parent, community and municipal representatives will have voting rights. The Director, Superintendent, Planning and Reporting Officer and the school administrators are non-voting members. 	

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Distribution of Completed School Information Profiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent Doey addressed the Committee, explaining the information profiles for the four elementary schools as well as that for Lambton-Kent Composite School. He added that these are considered draft, a work in progress, and information will be added as needed. The committee information also includes a blank sheet entitled 'School Information Profile – Value to the Local Economy', which is something that will be completed by the Committee. At the next meeting, the information profiles will be reviewed in detail. Committee members should review them to be able to provide suggestions, questions or additional information at the January meeting. 	
Review of Demographic Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lorie Vandeschoot, Planning and Reporting Officer, presented demographic trends for the five schools, which reported a ten-year birth rate history, and the change in school-age population over the past years. The Board works collaboratively with a demographics consultant company, Baragar, to compile statistics and enrolment projections. Catchment area maps were shown for each of the five schools. 	E. Huszka asked for actual numbers that parallel those used in the demographic percentages. Lorie Vandeschoot will follow-up.
Communications - Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director Stucke invited everyone to explore the Lambton Kent District School Board website: www.lkdsb.net There is an ARC link on the website, and within one week, the Record of Action (ROA) will be posted. As well, an electronic copy will be sent to all ARC members. There is an opportunity to ask questions through the Board website. All questions and responses through the ARC website will be brought back and shared with the committee members. 	
Process for Public Input to ARC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director Stucke reviewed the process for public input to ARC: through the Board website, through questions asked while attending an ARC meeting, or by a delegation presentation at a meeting. Input will be welcomed by Trustees, Board staff and Committee members. 	
Questions from the Committee Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jodi Robb asked how we notify folks about what is going on beyond the website, as some do not have computers. Director Stucke stated that we will present a report at Board meetings, where media (newspapers, radio stations) attend. Additionally, school newsletters and school council meetings provide information. 	

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<p>Questions from the Committee Members (cont'd.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jackie Beatty asked where students can be bussed right now. A lot of students have been drawn away. Director Stucke responded that we will cover the out of boundary issue on a future agenda. By Board Policy, students may attend any school without the provision of transportation. In a rural school, it would be rare to see students coming in from the city. • Jodi Robb asked how many schools have out-of-boundary students. Lorie Vandeschoot responded that in the school profiles, there are numbers for out of boundary students which were provided by the schools. The number of students from a particular school going elsewhere is 2008 data, but in January, we will know specific numbers. 	
<p>Questions from the Public</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question - Stacy O'Brien, Dawn-Euphemia parent Do we have a community representative from Dawn-Euphemia? • Principal Mary Lynn Anderson stated that Audrey Wagner is the community representative, but she is absent this evening. • Question - Maureen Hagan, parent When doing comparisons of numbers for students coming into public schools, did you consider the information relative to full-time JK and SK? • Director Stucke responded that it would be desirable to have all schools offer JK/SK. • Question – Maureen Hagan To close rural schools and then implement full time JK and SK could be premature. At Indian Creek Rd. P.S., there are four classes of JK/SK, but they are mixed classes. • Director Stucke responded that it would be desirable to have all schools offer JK/SK. All classes with full-time programs will have JK/SK students combined. If we look at closure, we need to be sure that receiving schools have room for the calculated full-time students coming in; however, it won't change the number of students from which you have to draw. • Question – Maureen Hagan There are lots of renters, who don't pay property taxes, and wouldn't be part of the data. • Director Stucke advised that Baragar looks at trends, and Stats Canada projections have been quite accurate. • Question – Jennifer Wallace, parent The last meeting is in March. What is the timeline for changes? • Director Stucke responded that it would take a year to implement the change as it involves staff changes, transportation changes, etc. 	

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Questions from the Public (cont'd.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question – Bill Stephens, parent What is the magic number of student enrolment in a classroom, and if moved to another school, would the class be split and have two teachers teaching? I wouldn't want to see a class of 35 or 40 with one teacher. • Director Stucke said that the government caps primary grades at 20, and other grades must average 24.5 across the district. Additional staff would be added if schools are consolidated. 	
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record of Action will be completed and sent electronically to all Committee Members and will be posted on website within a week. • The confidential ARC member communications list will be sent electronically to the members to facilitate contact within the Committee. • Director Stucke encouraged members to share and include the ARC information through School Council meetings and school newsletters and directing them to the ARC link on the Board website. • Committee members were reminded to review the Board Policy, Regulations and the October 2009 Pupil Accommodation Report. • School profiles should be reviewed prior to the January meeting with Committee members prepared to provide input. 	<p>J. Doyle</p> <p>J. Doyle</p>
Dates of Future Meetings (timelines, proposed locations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To avoid Monday evening meeting conflicts for a number of Committee member, consensus is that three Wednesday evening meetings be held as follows: • January 27, 2010 – Zone Twp. Central School • February 10, 2010 – Dawn-Euphemia Public School • March 31, 2010 – Thamesville Area Central School 	Advise media, update Board website.
Next Meetings January 27, 2010 February 10, 2010 March 31, 2010		
Adjournment 8:40 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. 	