

**ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE  
RECORD OF ACTION  
DRESDEN AREA SCHOOLS**

**Date:** January 27, 2010

**Location:** Zone Twp. Central 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, Audrey Wagner, Community Rep., 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, Randy Campbell, Ruth Ann Dodman

**Regrets:** Marsha Coyne (Municipality of Chatham-Kent)

*Note: This document is not a verbatim transcript. Questions and answers have been paraphrased for the sake of clarity and brevity*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action/Responsibility</b>
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Director Stucke welcomed Committee members and members of the public in attendance, and indicated that the main task for the evening would be to address the individual school profiles.</li> <li>Questions and answers which were posted on the Board's website were reviewed. Committee members and the public are encouraged to check the website for updates.</li> </ul>	
Review of Record of Action (RoA) from November 16, 2009 ARC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emery Huszka requested a spreadsheet which would address student population in the catchment area of each school, and where each is going. Lori Vandeschoot indicated that she is waiting for receipt of demographic information that would show a projection of students by age in certain areas, and this would let us determine numbers of eligible students; however, it will be difficult to analyze if the students are ours or Separate School Board students.</li> </ul>	L. Vandeschoot

Item	Discussion	Action/Responsibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A correction was noted under “Dates of Future Meetings”. The February 10, 2010 ARC Meeting will be held at Dawn-Euphemia Elementary School.</li> </ul>	J. Doyle
Out of Boundary Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lorie Vandeschoot presented out of boundary information for the Dresden Area Family of Schools, adding that the numbers included regular program students only. Special Education and French Immersion students are not included in these numbers.</li> <li>Dresden Area C.S. Principal Holmes indicated that the school’s increase in numbers of out of boundary students attending there is due to the fact that a number of his female staff bring their children to school there.</li> <li>Dawn-Euphemia Principal Anderson addressed the reason for out-of boundary students attending school elsewhere.</li> <li>Lambton-Kent C.S. Principal Lee added that even though his school’s figures show 23 students going to Chatham-Kent Secondary School, it is actually only 4 or 5 students per year, so the figure of 23 would include transfers out for a period of four years.</li> <li>Zone Twp. Principal Balkwill indicated that she believes the 17 students listed as going to Thamesville was due to the Best Start Program at Good Shepherd.</li> <li>Emily Faflak, Parent Representative, Dawn-Euphemia School, asked why our students from Dawn-Euphemia were allowed to travel out of bounds to attend a school such as Brooke Central, when Brooke Central had required an addition to house students.</li> <li>Director Stucke responded that Brooke Central was the location chosen for the Best Start Program, and that there was never an over-population issue there. The reason for the addition was to replace the existing portables which had been found to contain mould.</li> </ul>	
Review of School Information Profiles and Reference Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Superintendent Doey guided the process of reviewing the School Information Profiles, and indicated that this is a key step in the review process, to ensure that the information is as accurate and complete as it can be.</li> </ul>	
Questions from the Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Question</b> – J. Jackson Finley, LKCS alumnus <b>When I attended Lambton-Kent C.S. eight years ago, the course offerings I needed to go on to post-secondary education weren’t available. Is this still the case?</b></li> <li>Superintendent Doey responded that every one of our secondary schools offers a base program.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lambton-Kent C.S. Principal Lee added that the school is now able to accommodate more choice in program, due to an increase in E-Learning and V-Learning (teacher teaching in another location – interactive teaching, video streamed to various locations). Students must complete 18 compulsory courses, and we have every course needed to graduate. General Arts students may need Music and Dance, and we don't offer these courses; however we have a large variety of courses in the social science area. We offer most of the electives.</li> <li>• <b>Comment</b> – Angela Johnson – Zone Central parent The schools in the Dresden Area Family of Schools shouldn't compete against each other. We should be competing with the schools in Chatham. We are unique. When St. Ignatius closed, we switched our children to this school. If you close Zone, you will lose the Catholic Board students and my children will go to Glencoe. My daughter began her secondary school career in a Chatham secondary school, and now goes to Lambton-Kent. The Chatham principal didn't know her or care; Mr. Lee knows her and his staff cares. Without Zone, you will attract nothing. We retain people here because of the school.</li> <li>• <b>Question</b> – Kari Vankoughnett – Dawn-Euphemia parent <b>If you close a school, what is the impact on students, psychologically, particularly those in the primary grades, relative to class size?</b></li> <li>• Superintendent Doey responded that certainly there are challenges to making that sort of transition. Class sizes are Ministry mandated, however, and we are bound to adhere to that.</li> <li>• <b>Question</b> – Dayna MacMullin, Dawn-Euphemia parent My family chose a rural setting and school on purpose. The biggest difference is that the principal knows my children by name as well as their habits. I don't have the same feeling about their previous school. I fear the loss of that warmth if their school is closed. <b>Regarding the tour of the Goderich Grade 7-12 school, have we considered the impact of having 11-year old children in the same school as 17 and 18-year old students?</b></li> <li>• Superintendent Doey agreed that the vast majority of success we have is due to the relationships that are formed in support of our students. A number of committee members are going to Goderich to see firsthand what a Grade 7-12 school is all about. The Grade 7 and 8 students attend a school within a school, but the exposure to older students is still there.</li> <li>• <b>Comment</b> – Jennifer Wallace – Dawn-Euphemia alumna and parent I feel that the rest of the elementary schools in this group have been put at an unfair advantage with the announcement that Zone Central School will have a full-time Kindergarten program in the fall. Many families have been hurt as a result of prior school closures.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superintendent Doey responded that full-day Kindergarten is an eventuality for all schools across the Board. The fact that Zone will have that program in the fall is only one part of the big picture, but it is not significant enough to stand alone. We needed buildings where space was available.</li> <li>• <b>Comment</b> – Jennifer Wallace It's my understanding that the other schools have space as well.</li> <li>• <b>Parent Question from Floor</b> <b>If we're not to be concerned with school closure, why do we have to defend it?</b></li> <li>• Superintendent Doey responded that realistically, in the accommodation/review processes, the closure of a school is a potential outcome. We have a responsibility to maintain the viability of our schools and the programs we offer students. This process helps us to assess where we are in carrying out that responsibility, how we're set up and how we're moving forward. We have to determine if we are viable given the structure we have in place now, or if there are other things we should be looking at.</li> <li>• Trustee Goldsmith made an observation as a member of the public. He commented on the EQAO results reported in the individual school profiles. While the figures attest to student success, it would be beneficial to see five years of data, and look at how the Grade 3 students did in Grade 6.</li> </ul>	
<p>Questions from the Committee Members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emery Huszka, Municipal Representative, Twp. of Dawn-Euphemia, acknowledged that the process this time is a lot more open, in that attention is not directed at only one school. Has the concept of making use of school facilities for Adult Learning been considered? We could draw from Lambton College, St. Clair College and Fanshawe College.</li> <li>• Superintendent Doey responded that the Board has a very active Continuing Education Program, and is willing take programs out into the communities if there's a need.</li> <li>• Jodi Robb stated that schools are a benefit to the community. We're looking at full-time Kindergarten, but I am not clear on what it is the Board is asking this Committee to do.</li> <li>• Superintendent Doey responded that in the past, the decision for school closure had been made prior to the Board going to the community. The Government has decided that's not the way to do business; more importantly, we need to take a look at our schools and consider their viability from a <u>number</u> of standpoints. Tonight we've heard from a number of principals who are very proud of their schools, and from parents and community members who are passionate about the value of their school.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lori Vandeschoot advised that reviewing the Board Policy and Regulation on School Accommodation may help Committee members clarify their role. The Policy and Regulation and the ARC Terms of Reference are posted on the Board's website.</li> <li>• Emily Faflak stated that there are other schools operating at full capacity. Why are we not looking at those schools from which to draw students?</li> <li>• Superintendent Doey asked if are there elements that are peripheral to the group and offered to take the question back to the Director.</li> <li>• Scott Sproule asked about the impact of bussing Kindergarten students on the same bus as secondary school students.</li> <li>• Lori Vandeschoot responded that we currently have, within the Lambton-Kent District School Board, some buses with K-12 student on them.</li> <li>• Jackie Beatty asked if there was research data on having Grade 7 and 8 students in the same setting as secondary school students.</li> </ul>	
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details regarding the Goderich trip were shared with Committee Members. February 3 – 7:30 a.m. pick-up at Lambton-Kent C.S. February 5 – 7:00 a.m. pick-up at Ridgetown District High School, with a second pick-up at 7:30 at Lambton-Kent C.S. Committee members are asked to e-mail Director Stucke of their desired pick-up point.</li> <li>• The Record of Action and School Information Profiles will be posted on the Board website by this time next week. Committee members were asked to keep in touch with questions and answers through the Board website.</li> <li>• Scott Sproule asked if there would be a tour information package provided prior to the tour.</li> <li>• Superintendent Doey responded that he would follow up with Director Stucke to see if an information package would be provided.</li> </ul>	
Dates of Future Meetings (timelines, proposed locations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• February 10, 2010 – Dawn-Euphemia School</li> <li>• February 24, 2010 – potential meeting date, if needed</li> <li>• March 31, 2010 – Thamesville Area Central School</li> </ul>	
Adjournment 10:20 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.</li> </ul>	