

**FOREST AREA SCHOOLS
PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW PUBLIC MEETING #1
MINUTES / RECORD OF ACTION**

Date: November 16, 2016
Location: Bosanquet Central School, 8766 Northville Road, Thedford, Ontario, N0M 2N0

Present: Resource Personnel: Jim Costello, Director of Education, Gary Girardi, Superintendent of Education – Capital Planning and Accommodation, Brian McKay, Superintendent of Business, Mark Sherman, Superintendent of Education – Program: Student Success/Secondary, Taf Lounsbury, Superintendent of Education – Program: Early Years/Elementary, Joyce Vlcek, Principal Aberarder Central School, Carole Wettergreen, Principal Bosanquet Central School, Steve Thomas, Principal Kinnwood Central School, Rhonda Leystra, Principal North Lambton Secondary School, Mike Sereda, Moderator, Kent Orr, Chatham-Kent Lambton Administrative School Services (CLASS), Jaime Gudrie, Recorder

Regrets:

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	<p>Mike Sereda, Moderator of the Public Meeting, welcomed the audience to the Forest Area Accommodation Review Public Meeting. Director Costello, Superintendent Girardi, Superintendent McKay, and the Forest Area School Principals, Principal Leystra, Principal Thomas, Principal Wettergreen, and Principal Vlcek, were introduced.</p> <p>Mike Sereda remarked that the meeting was the first of two Public Meetings to discuss the proposed 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.</p> <p>Members of the audience were told that The Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB) wanted to hear from members of the public and answer any questions or address any concerns they may have.</p>	

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	<p>He explained that during the question period, if information was not readily available it would be posted onto the Accommodation Review website for the Forest Area under the "Frequently Asked Questions" section. The meeting could run longer than the 8 p.m. end time if the audience had more questions. Delegation presentations were to be five minutes in length.</p> <p>Mike Sereda said that the LKDSB appreciated the audience's cooperation in ensuring this is an equitable process.</p>	
<p>Overview of Orientation Session – October 20, 2016</p>	<p>Superintendent Girardi provided an overview of the Orientation Meeting, held on October 20, 2016. The Agenda and Record of Action from this meeting are posted on the LKDSB website.</p> <p>The purpose of the Orientation Meeting was to discuss the Pupil Accommodation Review process and the purpose of the Public Meeting was to allow for public questions and delegations.</p>	
<p>Initial Staff Report Presentation</p>	<p>Director Costello provided an overview on the Pupil Accommodation Review Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Pupil Accommodation Report is provided to Trustees every fall and is in compliance with the Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline. The Pupil Accommodation Report includes a multi-phase report with a number of proposed studies. This is in the interest of transparency. This review was included in the Pupil Accommodation Report last year. The LKDSB Pupil Accommodation Report 2016/2017 can be found on the LKDSB website. • There are two main causes for these recommendations: enrolment and finance, both of which are linked. Funding is pupil based, so when enrolment goes up funding is increased and when enrolment goes down funding is decreased. Boards have decreasing enrolment across the province of Ontario. • In 2015 the Ministry of Education changed the Grants for Student Needs, which left the Board with shortfalls. • The LKDSB has closed 14 elementary schools, 3 secondary schools, and 1 Adult Learning Centre since amalgamation in 1998. The LKDSB learned through these school closures that students adapted and adjusted quickly to 	

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	<p>their new environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pupil Accommodation Reviews are not an indictment or criticism of the schools. The LKDSB has worked hard to keep schools open but enrolment is declining and it is difficult to maintain the same number of programs with less staff. We are very proud of the schools and are familiar with each school's unique qualities. • The LKDSB has a silver lining of opportunity to consolidate, add-on, and rebuild schools for the next generation to come. There will be fewer but more well-equipped schools. <p>Superintendent Girardi presented an overview of the Initial Staff Report. Superintendent McKay presented the financial information contained in the Initial Staff Report. This presentation will be posted on the LKDSB website.</p>	
<p>School Information Profiles</p>	<p>The principals of North Lambton Secondary School, Kinnwood Central School, Bosanquet Central School, and Aberarder Central School provided an overview of their school's School Information Profile (SIP). The full documents can be found on the LKDSB website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhonda Leystra presented the SIP for North Lambton Secondary School. • Steve Thomas presented the SIP for Kinnwood Central School. • Carole Wettergreen presented the SIP for Bosanquet Central School. • Joyce Vlcek presented the SIP for Aberarder Central School. 	
<p>Delegations from the Public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tanya Weyers, Chris Weyers, Melissa Bass, and Carol Bass - Andrea Walden 	<p>Tanya Weyers, Chris Weyers, Melissa Bass, and Carol Bass presented a request to revise the catchment boundaries to include the area of Bonnie Doone and the Village of Camlachie in the Errol Village School district. A copy of their presentation can be found on the LKDSB website.</p> <p>Andrea Walden, Accommodation Review Committee member, resident of Lambton Shores and parent of Bosanquet Central School students, presented on why a viable and sustainable secondary school is needed in North Lambton and the focus of the proposed K-12 school on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). A copy of this presentation can be found on the LKDSB website.</p>	

<p>Questions from the Public</p>	<p>Mike Sereda welcomed questions from the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question: A parent from Aberarder Central School had a question about the Board allowing a special circumstance regarding courtesy seat application to Errol Village Public School for those who live in Camlachie and are in the catchment area for the proposed K-12 school. • Response: The Pupil Accommodation Report last year included this boundary change in option. Changing the boundary has broad implications. The LKDSB can entertain them but there are implications with the loss of students at the elementary and/or secondary level. The LKDSB would like to maintain the population to support program offerings and provide a viable secondary school in the Forest area. In light of the presentation tonight, Administration will put this topic on the Agenda of Working Meeting #1 for discussion. The Accommodation Review Committee can have a look at what impact that will have on the schools. No boundary will change without approval from Trustees. The granting of courtesy seats is covered by LKDSB policy. • Comment: A parent from Aberarder Central School commented that many parents will choose to send their children to a Catholic School as it is the only school system that will bus to Sarnia. • Response: The LKDSB changed boundaries last year due to the Pupil Accommodation Review in Sarnia and the subsequent Secondary Schools consolidation. The Errol Village students are now bussed to Northern Collegiate or Great Lakes Secondary School. Outside of this catchment area students would go to North Lambton Secondary School. In order to change boundaries Trustees would have to vote on this. Please see the applicable Regulation. • Comment: ARC Member Andrea Walden was concerned with the make-up of the ARC in terms of representatives from Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, East Lambton Public School, and Grand Bend Public School. She suggested that the Board talks to general members of the public from those communities who will be personally impacted by this. 	
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- **Response:** The Kettle and Stony Point First Nation has designated the Hillside Elementary School Principal as their representative on the ARC. If the community is interested in further discussion the LKDSB will meet with them as well. The LKDSB has been in contact with the Principals from Grand Bend Public School and East Lambton Elementary School. Administration is available to meet with representatives from those school communities and their school councils. The LKDSB encourages them to attend the Public Meetings. The Accommodation Review Committee has representation from the schools that will be consolidated.
- **Question:** A resident who lives near Kinnwood Central School was concerned with the congestion that would be caused from the increase in buses at Kinnwood Central School. She asked what the plans are for this increase in traffic.
- **Response:** There is traffic congestion at a lot of schools at certain times. The architects in the initial draft will talk about movement of traffic at specific times. Architects include how they will accommodate traffic flow in relation to buses and other-vehicles coming out of the site at different times. Administration believes a lot of the traffic concerns can be mitigated. The LKDSB does want to hear from area residents and has talked to the Seniors Home. Lambton Shores Council has been provided with the Initial Staff Report. There is a process in place to try to address concerns.
- **Question:** A parent from Aberarder Central School commented that it is a big transition for students used to a small school and students won't have a chance to be leaders in their elementary school if they move to secondary school in Grade 7. Will there be consideration for K-8 on the elementary side and Grade 9-12 on the secondary side?
- **Response:** This will depend on the concerns and wishes of the community. Tecumseh Vista Academy has a separation, with K-8 on one side and 9-12 on the other. Walkerton District Community School is more intertwined. Elementary students will have opportunities for music, sports, and leadership. The LKDSB has not moved rapidly at a consolidation in the past and have tried to maintain as many schools as possible. Consolidations are being proposed in other school areas as well. The LKDSB would like to better support the schools we have at the end of this process. This is an attempt to

be equitable for all students across the board.

- **Comment:** A parent from Aberarder Central School commented that the North school district of Lambton County does sports very differently than in Sarnia. This involves a lot of travelling, which is something for the Board to think about.
- **Question:** A student from Aberarder Central School asked what will happen to the records from Grade 7 and 8 when the schools are closed.
- **Response:** When a school consolidation occurs the LKDSB tries to incorporate history and cultural aspects from the schools involved. This task is assigned to the Transition Committee after Trustees vote and is very important for the new site to be accepting and welcoming to all people as a whole.
- **Question:** ARC member Chris O'Reilly commented that there will be 19 buses that will come to the Kinnwood Central School site 4 times per day, plus the addition of the high school students who drive themselves, in an area with a Daycare Centre, Nursing Home, and Retirement Home. She questioned what consultation is planned with the residents in the area to address this, and what the bus route will be.
- **Response:** The principal of Kinnwood Central School and Superintendent Girardi met with the Director of the Seniors Home to talk about the process. There were some concerns with traffic. Mostly the conversation was around the benefits and mutual activities that happened at the site with both elementary and secondary students. It is a learning opportunity for students. Those are beneficial things. This community does not want to lose these connections. The principals will tell you they have great students, our students, that will do great things in the community.
- Director Costello remarked that the issue of student safety is paramount. A balance must occur between the community and the school. In the past Administration has engaged with the community and the local police to do a traffic flow set-up. Administration has also worked with local municipalities. We will engage with the architect if we move forward, and often the community can see the design and provide input. The more time we have on the design, the greater opportunity there is to get it right. The community and

	<p>schools need to co-exist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Orr commented that site design is key and Chatham-Kent Lambton Administrative School Services (CLASS) has a track record of working with the Board on traffic flow, parking, and merging with pedestrian traffic. There are 19 buses in the Forest Area, so CLASS is aware of the traffic flow today and would look at changes that would need to occur to incorporate any changes. CLASS provides different options at the school and works with the school community to ensure it is safe. • Question: A community member had a concern with the location chosen for the proposed K-12 school as it will be congested with buses and the land size does not allow for enough green space. She commented that a new school built near the Shores Recreation Centre in Forest would have been a better choice. • Response: This is a process. The Final Staff Report includes a summary of community comments and discussion, and the Trustees vote. If they don't agree with the plan the Trustees can vote no. Administration has revised the original recommendation in the Final Staff Report, and last year in the Wyoming Area the timeline was changed. Transparency is very important. We did look at the option of a larger site and construction of a new building. When the LKDSB makes plans there is work with the Ministry and a prediction of what funds will be needed and available. Kinnwood Central School is centrally located and almost the same size as the K-12 school in Walkerton. Based on discussions with the architect we could add on with a price that would meet Ministry standards. We don't believe funding would be received from the Ministry for a complete new build on a new site. • Comment: It will cost \$20 million for the building but the Board won't want to buy land. • Response: A new build will cost 30-35 million dollars and the LKDSB does not believe a new build grant application would be successful in obtaining the funding from the Ministry. There are two Ministry grants available. The Ministry has set aside \$750 million for consolidations and \$500 million for new builds. Administration feels it is a reasonable request with a chance of success, but it is not a done deal. There are two Trustees in attendance tonight, and it is their decision on the final vote and will make that decision 	
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when the time comes.

- **Comment:** A parent from Bosanquet Central School commented that there are concerns that students will be at a disadvantage in terms of space, parking, and separate play areas at the Kinnwood Central School Site.
- **Response:** When we discussed that with the architect we think we can accommodate the population in terms of the addition of the building and the space for activities. We are looking at a new track and enhancement to the existing field. The architect will take traffic into consideration in design.
- **Comment:** There will not be enough space at the Kinnwood Central School site to properly separate the elementary and secondary students.
- **Response:** That would be the benefit of being able to visit sites with a K-12 already in place. Seeing it is a good way to assess what it looks like in practical terms. In talking with those schools they like that model and have repeated it in other schools. I know those two boards like the model and community did as well. In terms of space, there are a variety of ways to create a school structure to create space depending on what the community wants. In Walkerton they start at different times and have breaks at different times. This is not unlike two schools in our system; Northern Collegiate and Errol Road Public School, which are across soccer fields in terms of space. The students from the high school cross paths with the elementary students, and are in the same vicinity. There is the possibility to increase or decrease the level of interaction depending on how the site is designed.
- **Comment:** A parent from Aberarder Central School and North Lambton Secondary School commented that the Kinnwood Central School site could hold elementary students and a new build could be located by the Shores Recreation Centre in Forest for the secondary students, which may help with funding.
- **Response:** In the case of S.C.I.&T.S. and St. Clair Secondary School, during preliminary discussions with the Ministry, representatives suggested that the best option was an addition to the current St. Clair Secondary School for the consolidated Great Lakes Secondary School. Trustees decided to ask for a new school build as well as an addition. The LKDSB had the ability to submit two applications in this case. If Administration gets a sense that the

community wants to pursue it, it is something that can. That impacts the timeline. The number one priority would be the submission for the addition. The Ministry looks at each application separately and looks at priority one first. Administration are meeting next Friday with the Ministry and will discuss the options. A new build will cost roughly 30-35 million dollars. The Ministry does not give those out lightly or readily. One was approved but it took the board 5 years of resubmitting the application to get approval. Administration is more than happy to continue to have those discussions with the Ministry and talk to the Accommodation Review Committee about what that looks like and what the Ministry says. It does not mean that since the application was not successful last time it wouldn't be successful this time.

- **Question:** A parent from Aberarder Central School commented that she appreciated the transparency provided at the meeting. She said that some parents may choose to send their children to other boards due to the catchment area they are in with this board, and asked if those numbers are taken into account for the long-term viability of the school.
- **Response:** Administration indicated that they could look into those. There are students that choose a different route rather than going to North Lambton Secondary School. Administration would need to look at specific numbers if re-zoning was a consideration. Data on how many students would not attend North Lambton Secondary School if the boundaries were changed would need to be gathered. There is always a repercussion on changing boundaries.
- **Question:** Is there a magic number for the viability of a high school?
- **Response:** There are many studies on this. There is a broad study that says the mark is 600-900 students and others say it is as low as 400. Our largest secondary schools are around 1100 students and the smallest is closer to 200 students. We think that if we improve the secondary school here we can maintain the population of the secondary portion of the K-12 school for the long term. Students now choose not to go to North Lambton Secondary School because of competition from other schools. The goal is to create a place where students choose to stay.
- **Question:** Deputy Mayor Doug Cook, from Lambton Shores commented that he appreciated the input from everyone. He asked how much of an impact the Lambton Shores Council had on the decision moving forward.

- **Response:** The LKDSB has a separate governing body.
- **Question:** Deputy Mayor Doug Cook asked if the LKDSB would be looking at more input from the Lambton Shores Council as far as the overall planning, in regards to the traffic issue, site location, etc.
- **Response:** The Trustee`s board decision is final but Administration always considers municipality input. Lambton Shores is invited to the annual Community Partnership Planning meeting. Administration will certainly listen to your input on logistical details. Municipalities in the past have given us a lot of input.
- **Comment:** ARC Member Chris O`Reilly commented that the community needs to write letters to the Ministry of Education and MPPs as much of the discussion during the meeting was based on Ministry of Education decisions, Ontario government decisions, and funding.
- **Question:** A Bosanquet Central School community member asked if an ETFO member would have the right to discipline a secondary student in the K-12 school.
- **Response:** Administration would walk through this process with staff and union partners. While we usually do not discipline in the hallway, staff would address concerns and potentially contact or escort to the office students who may need support from the administration.
- **Comment:** Lambton Shores has different communities as part of a municipality that works together but have unique identities, which we would not want lost in the school. Bosanquet Central School has a Remembrance Day tradition that we wouldn`t want to lose as it is an important part of our children`s character, culture, and heritage. I would recommend that the Transition Committee works on that.
- **Response:** Administration would try to put those decisions in the hands of the schools. There are many schools who walk or bus to a Remembrance Day ceremonies. There is a lot done to reach back to communities because it is so important. Administration wouldn`t want to stand in the way of the school continuing those traditions.

- **Question:** A student from Aberarder Central School said that there are concerns amongst her classmates that the high school experience won't be the same with younger students there interacting with them.
- **Response:** It will be important to think about the perspective of the high school students and protecting their space as well. Having space for them is very important. In Walkerton, for example, the cafetorium during the school day is a high school space, which has been done to protect the high school experience. At Tecumseh Vista they have separate entrances. It will have to give and take on what the community and students want.
- **Comment:** Mayor Lonny Napper, from the Town of Plympton-Wyoming said that every effort should be made to keep Camlachie students in the community rather than them taking a bus 20 kilometers away. It is important in this review to do that.
- **Question:** A parent from Aberarder Central School and North Lambton Secondary School asked what the impact on Kinnwood Central School students will be during the construction, and if the construction will be going on during the school year.
- **Response:** There are two pieces to the construction, the refurbishing of Kinnwood Central School and an addition of the secondary section. The secondary section is the biggest piece. Other school boards physically separate that part from other area. Administration will plan with the principal on how that will work, and that becomes a construction site. As far as the refurbishing of the existing Kinnwood Central School, we would have two summer periods without students to do this work. In the Wyoming Area we have engaged the Transition committee and are taking a phased approach with the renovations. The safety of students is the number one priority. The architects will be at Working Meeting #1 for the committee to ask questions on what a vision would look like. Administration has worked with communities in the past to listen to concerns and draw plans to address those issues. We do have experience in this, and it starts with consultation with the school community.
- **Comment:** A parent said that the current property assessment shows an increase from 2012 and if we are contributing more in this area but the

funding isn't available there is a failure between the Ministry and the Board to provide funding to the schools as they exist.

- **Comment:** A parent from North Lambton Secondary School said that if we have to amalgamate we shouldn't have all of our students under one roof.
- **Comment:** A parent from Aberarder Central School said that Plympton students should be sent to Errol Village since it has a declining enrolment, which could stop it from closing in the future.
- **Question:** A parent from Bosanquet Central School said that there has not been enough information on what the classrooms will look like, which will affect our children's mental health.
- **Response:** In terms of size, there are Ministry caps that Administration must adhere to, so the classrooms won't exceed these caps. In terms of staff, it is directed by the number of students in the building. When looking at the projections you would see similar sized classrooms but a smaller number of split classes because there will be a larger number of students in each grade.
- **Comment:** The students have more one-on-one time being in a smaller school with smaller classrooms. If you move the students to a larger school the class sizes will be maxed out and teachers may not have as much time per child in that case.
- **Question:** A parent from Bosanquet Central School asked what will happen during the construction with the students who attend Daycare year-round.
- **Response:** Administration would work with the Daycare provider. What has been done in the past in this situation the Daycare area and outdoor play areas are sealed off from the construction. The Daycare area in this case is in a newer part of the building so there wouldn't be anything required in that area. The design allows for a physical separation. One area is the outdoor yard, which is used by primary students as well. It is not in good shape and would be redesigned to ensure they have the best possible play space. In that case they could have other spots to use while the area is updated.
- **Question:** A parent from Bosanquet Central School asked if there are any studies that suggest students excel at a K-12 school rather than a smaller

	<p>school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response: There are lots of studies that show both positives and negatives. It's the school the students are attending that we need to make the best possible and support learning at those schools. It is hard to define a cause and effect on student success. The number one factor is the quality of the teacher and the student's desire to succeed. In larger schools there is greater opportunity for professional development and capacity building. The LKDSB has great staff in all of our schools. There should be no dip in student achievement. 	
Next Meeting	<p>Working Meeting #1 will be held on November 23, 2016 at Aberarder Central School. The public is welcome to attend the Working Meeting but will not be participating. Public Meeting #2 will be held on January 23, 2017 at North Lambton Secondary School. Those who wish to delegate at the Public Meeting must provide a Request to Delegate by January 13, 2017.</p> <p>The Record of Action from both meetings will be posted online for anyone unable to attend.</p>	
Adjournment	<p>Director Costello thanked everyone for attending the meeting and appreciated the questions and comments. He told the group that they have given Administration a lot to think about. He indicated that if anyone would like to speak directly to Trustees there is a process in place and can be found on the LKDSB website.</p> <p>Mike Sereda thanked the audience and adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.</p>	