

**FOREST AREA SCHOOLS  
PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE WORKING MEETING #2  
MINUTES / RECORD OF ACTION**

**Date:** January 26, 2017  
**Location:** Kinnwood Central School, 63 MacDonald Street, Forest, Ontario

**Present:** Committee Members: Joyce Vlcek, Principal Aberarder Central School, Shelly Somerville, Parent Representative Aberarder Central School, Karen Houle, Community Representative Aberarder Central School, Madison Pickard, Student Representative Aberarder Central School, Carole Wettergreen, Principal Bosanquet Central School, Andrea Walden, Parent Representative Bosanquet Central School, Christine O'Reilly, Community Representative Bosanquet Central School, Steve Thomas, Principal Kinnwood Central School, Doug Vaessen, Parent Representative Kinnwood Central School, Carolyn Mosier, Community Representative Kinnwood Central School, Abby Fuller, Student Representative Kinnwood Central School, Rhonda Leystra, Principal North Lambton Secondary School, Tim Houle, Parent Representative North Lambton Secondary School, Megan McIntyre, Student Representative North Lambton Secondary School, Cathy Hampshire, First Nations Representative, Bailie Richards, Student Representative Bosanquet Central School, Thelma Dolmage, Community Representative North Lambton Secondary School

Resource Personnel: Gary Girardi, Superintendent of Education – Capital Planning and Accommodation, Taf Lounsbury, Superintendent of Education – Program: Early Years/Elementary, Kent Orr, General Manager Chatham-Kent Lambton Administrative School Services (CLASS), Scott Hall, CLASS, Jaime Gudrie, Recorder

**Regrets:** Mark Sherman, Superintendent of Education – Program: Student Success/Secondary

*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 Call to Order	Superintendent Girardi welcomed the committee and explained that Working Meeting #2 was the final gathering with the Pupil Accommodation Review Committee in a public setting. The <u>Record of Action</u> from Public Meeting #2, held on January 23, 2017, is posted on the LKDSB website. The Record of Action from this meeting, along with any presentations, will also be posted on the website.	

Item	Discussion	Action/Responsibility
	<p>He explained that at the Working Meetings the public is welcome to observe, but there is no forum for the public to ask questions. The Working Meeting is for the committee to ask questions.</p> <p>The meeting was scheduled to end at 8:00 p.m. but the committee agreed that if the discussion ran longer the meeting would continue past this time. Superintendent Girardi said that it was important that all questions have been asked by committee members.</p>	
Adoption of Agenda	The Agenda was adopted by the committee.	
Adoption of Minutes/Record of Action from Public Meeting #2	<p>The Record of Action from Public Meeting #2 was adopted by the committee.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Thelma Dolmage asked if Senior Administration will be sending two applications to the Ministry.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Superintendent Girardi responded that this is the discussion at the moment, but reminded everyone that the Trustees have the final say.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Thelma Dolmage asked if it would be more feasible for a new build because there would be more time and costs on renovating this end of the building.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Superintendent Girardi responded that it would be a good question for the architects who were scheduled to present later in the meeting. He explained that was a concern expressed at both Pupil Accommodation Reviews last year. However, when a building is renovated a lot of updates are completed.</p>	
<p>Presentation from the County of Lambton – Municipal Services</p> <p>Doug Ball, Manager, Social Planning and Children’s Services Department</p>	<p>Doug Ball, Manager, Social Planning and Children Services Department, presented to the committee. His presentation can be found on the LKDSB website.</p> <p>Doug Ball explained that his department is responsible for children’s services from 0 to 6 years of age. He explained that the department is going through a transition with Best Start Hubs, Ontario Early Years Centres, and Parenting and Family Literacy Centres, which will be placed under the general jurisdiction of the</p>	

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	<p>Municipality, and be integrated to Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres. He explained that the existing hub at Kinnwood Central School would be positioned to immediately become that level of hub as it already provides the services that the province is mandating.</p> <p>He provided some highlights of what is provided by the program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free transportation to access services</li> <li>• Outreach programs in surrounding communities</li> <li>• Preschool Early Learning Program (PELP), free access to licensed childcare for 1 year before a child starts school</li> </ul> <p>Doug Ball explained that if the consolidation of the schools was to occur, the services his department provides would reach a lot of the people that already would be brought in centrally, and if there was a need to add services to the hub or more outreach programs, they have the capacity to do that. He explained that if there was a new build on a new site, they would want to locate the hub and childcare with the new school, but would also want to be careful of where the location is for their services. He said that the location is important, and the Kinnwood Central School site is unique as it has the seniors' centre, childcare, the hub and the school in one area.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Bailie Richards asked Doug Ball if he thought it was appropriate to have the seniors' centre, daycare, and hub all at the Kinnwood Central School site.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Doug Ball responded that he was the person who created the hub, so 'yes'. He said that when the childcare was built, it created linkages with seniors and youth. If you talk to operators of the seniors building, they would say it's one of the greatest things that has occurred on both sides for them.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Tim Houle asked Doug Ball how he felt about adding secondary school students as well.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Doug Ball responded that in his experience when younger and older students are mixed, he has found the high school students became more mature and more responsible and the younger students look up to them.</p> <p><b>Follow-up Question:</b> Tim Houle asked Doug Ball if he thought it was a good idea.</p>	

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	<p><b>Response:</b> Doug Ball responded that in his experiences, the connection between high school and elementary aged students in different activities has always been a positive one.</p> <p><b>Follow-up Question:</b> Tim Houle asked Doug Ball if he thought the access to the daycare and seniors' centre for secondary school students would be a good idea.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Doug Ball responded that you would now be providing services for infants, seniors, and everything in between.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Chris O'Reilly asked what EDI Vulnerability and Ontario Vulnerability was.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Doug Ball explained that it is an early development instrument, a tool used to measure the vulnerability of children and risks so there may be early intervention.</p> <p>Superintendent Lounsbury further explained that the Board's Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) teachers fill out a questionnaire for Senior Kindergarten students on readiness for Grade 1, which is sent off to the Centre for analysis and results shared with the Municipalities to support local needs.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Chris O'Reilly asked if the school was to move to a new location, would the Best Start Hub move as well, or has there been any consideration to staying at the Kinnwood Central School site and being able to use some of the facilities already here and maintain contact with the nursing home or would it move to a new facility.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Doug Ball responded that the concept with schools being the first vision is about having services all in one location. He said that hub services in a school setting allows the child and parent to become comfortable, and if childcare is part of hub services, it becomes simple. Then, he explained, when the children are school age, it makes school transitions much easier for parents and families. He remarked that separating it out defeats that purpose and vision and starts to become a cost factor. He said that if the school isn't here, but the hub has to stay, the Municipality is paying for the building separately as an entity rather than with the Board. He said that research conducted over the years indicates the benefits of having the school and hub together, so once you break it</p>	

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	<p>up you lose a lot of what was envisioned.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Tim Houle asked if the cost of building a new structure, from the point of view of the province, would include the cost of building a new hub and daycare.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Doug Ball responded that he believed there would be capital dollars associated with the cost of building a hub and daycare as part of the package.</p> <p>Superintendent Girardi explained that the Ministry indicates that partnerships and services with the community are very important, and Senior Administration would like to maintain those relationships to the advantage of the community and the students. He said that there is a benefit of continuity of services when keeping students and parents in one spot.</p>	
<p>Discussion on Visit to Walkerton District Community Kindergarten to Grade 12 School – Input from Committee</p>	<p>On January 11, 2017 the Pupil Accommodation Review Committee, along with the Board's union partners and a teaching and CUPE representative from Aberarder Central School, Bosanquet Central School, Kinnwood Central School, and North Lambton Secondary School visited Walkerton District Community School in Walkerton, Ontario. Some members of the committee were unable to attend the tour, so did not provide comments in the discussion.</p> <p>Superintendent Girardi asked the committee to share their thoughts on the Kindergarten to Grade 12 school.</p> <p>Principal Thomas said that what resonated with him was the sense of community that he got from walking around the school. He said that Tecumseh Vista Academy in Tecumseh, Ontario is a bit more split and is run as a separate elementary and secondary school with a bit of integration in between. He explained that from an administrative perspective, there was one principal and they considered themselves as one staff community. Principal Thomas explained that it was a new build which is designed in a square, so it is a different layout so more conducive to a Kindergarten to 12 environment. He said there were a lot of similar programs, and programming did integrate them as well.</p> <p>Carolyn Mosier remarked that when she started in the process she was of the mindset of keeping separation, but agreed that community was evident. She said that even though they used separate parts of the building, they were one</p>	

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	<p>school and there wasn't a division, so it felt like you were in one school. She remarked that if we did a new build it would potentially be a way to go. She said that, in talking to staff, that theme carried on as well and the staff is working together, instead of as two separate entities.</p> <p>Abby Fuller said that she liked that the school was one and not two separate schools with locked doors between, and that it was open and elementary students could access things the high school had.</p> <p>Andrea Walden said that the principal of the school toured her group around and mentioned that they do not have enough science labs as they only have two and need three. She said that Walkerton and this area have similarities and the same economic situation, so it is something to consider. She said that the shops were full; another thing in common with this area was a lot of people are interested in the trades. She said there was a large cafeteria with a stage and if there was a way to cordon off the halls so the stage could be used for public events so people aren't in the rest of the building, you could rent it out. If the ultimate goal is to have as many uses in a building, then these are things that should be considered.</p> <p>Chris O'Reilly said that she was impressed with the building and sense of community and with two staffs from two unions working together. She was impressed with the size of yard for elementary school kids, although there was some concern with the size of the FDK rooms; some thought they were small. There was a lot of natural light and adequate parking. The location of the school within Walkerton, at a major crossroads, appeared to be a good location, with no issue of traffic congestion, appropriate turning lanes, and cross walks. She said she came away impressed with the potential when you design something right from the beginning. She said that the principal talked about things she would do differently, but they were able to design for that purpose and meeting the needs of a Kindergarten to Grade 12 school. In Walkerton, they were dealing with 3 schools already all within the same community, which is something the Board is going to need to look at carefully because that's not what it is doing; it has 4 different communities coming together into one school. She said that she is all for unity, but you just need to think about that.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Cathy Hampshire was unable to attend, but asked if the idea was for one school with Kindergarten to Grade 12 under one administration or one site with two separate facilities. She said that she was looking for more clarification</p>	

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	<p>as it was something that had been discussed in the community.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Superintendent Girardi provided two examples. Walkerton District Community School has one principal and two vice principals for one building, which was by design to create a sense of community. Tecumseh Vista Academy is a Kindergarten to Grade 12 school, which is in one building, but the elementary school is more separated from the secondary school. They have a principal for the elementary school and a principal for the secondary school.</p> <p><b>Follow-up Question:</b> Cathy Hampshire asked if there has been a decision on one or the other.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Superintendent Girardi explained that there has not been a decision made but there continues to be discussion on this topic.</p> <p>Doug Vaessen said that one thing he liked was talking to some teachers. He went into one room where they provided the group with a lunch and the teacher involved said there were opportunities for high school students to help the younger students bake cookies. He remarked that unfortunately parents are sometimes too busy to do that with their kids, and it is important to him any time kids can learn new skills and have fun. He said there was a great sense of community and really liked that the school had a couple of classrooms almost joined together. He explained that the two rooms were side by side but at the end of the room were joined so there was an area where two classrooms of like ages could interact together as a bigger group or to give the classroom a bigger space, which was a unique thing he had never heard of. He said that overall it was great and, as was mentioned before, he thought they had a lot of things in common. He said that the LKDSB has 4 separate communities, but are all one big community - Lambton Shores.</p> <p>Tim Houle remarked that he didn't like the idea before, but when he saw it in action he was impressed with the energy. He explained that there are barriers where kids can't enter some areas at certain times, which includes who has access to the cafeteria. He said that the school had shared administration, and the administrative area was huge. He said it is a beautiful school, but remarked that he didn't feel that the Arts area of the school was adequate, so he would want someone working with the architect to ensure that music, arts, and drama areas were well designed to function properly. He said that the shop areas were huge compared to classrooms for music and drama. He said that it struck him</p>	

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	<p>that no matter how beautiful it was and how much the group loved the Kindergarten to Grade 12 school, it is still restrictive by really lousy funding programs for small schools and rural schools. He explained that there were classrooms closed in a brand new school because they went down by 20 kids, so shop kids didn't have anywhere to go for classroom space. He said that he heard custodians complaining that they didn't have enough staff, as it takes longer to clean windows, so there are still funding issues if custodians are staffed based on square feet. He said that it has nothing to do with anything we are doing here on this committee and is still struggling with how we get money from the government to teach our kids.</p> <p>Shelly Somerville said that she was pleasantly surprised, liked the feeling of the school, and couldn't see any problem with high school students interacting with elementary kids, so it was better than she expected. She thought it was wonderful they get the opportunity to mentor the younger ones. She said that our kids wouldn't get the opportunity to be involved in a music program and that there are more opportunities in that scenario. She said that the school was 5 years old and her biggest concern was congestion and confusion at dismissal, and we have to be very careful in planning where the kids are dropped off, walkers, drivers, and high school kids who drive.</p> <p>Principal Vlcek said that she was impressed with the school and always thought it would be a good idea. She said that there were concerns with the FDK rooms being smaller than she would like to see. Her other concern was that some classes on the second floor with natural light backed on to the gym, so you would be contending with classroom noise and noise from downstairs.</p> <p>Madison Pickard said that she liked the school and how there were different programs and younger kids could access some programs. She told fellow peers and they thought they would like it more closed off.</p> <p>Superintendent Lounsbury really liked the flexible use of space the school had. She said that the group she was with wanted to see the back entrance of the stage so they cut through the music room and asked some questions of the Grade 7 and 8 students working there with their teacher. She told them that a concern she has heard many times, and our board looked at this 10 years or more ago, is that people don't like their young children going to a school with teenagers. The students told her that they are their older brothers and sisters. She said that later that day they were going to have a pep rally, and the Grade 7</p>	

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	<p>and 8 students were going with the high school students. The students said they weren't nervous of going, as they had been there and know them. She said that it was the community access feeling again she really liked. She said that she asked them about dismissal and they said you get used to it, and said they pick their younger brothers and sisters up and are on the same timeline.</p> <p>Bailie Richards said that she thought everybody noticed that the school was built to be a super school. It wasn't just an addition to a single school, as it was designed so they could have a Kindergarten to Grade 12 school. She said that the Board is planning on adding on to a school we have now and that is not going to work as there is not enough space and not enough room for parking. She said that her dad has a bigger truck and they have had trouble even driving into a parking space, so she has concerns with a bus having room.</p> <p>Superintendent Girardi said that he is always happy to see other schools because it is an opportunity to learn and was pleased when committee member Chris O'Reilly brought up the idea of going to see this community school. He said that he was invigorated leaving there and that comes with the people you meet.</p> <p>Principal Thomas said that he talked to the principal and she said that she was an elementary principal and had a steep learning curve, but now loves it and won't go back.</p> <p>Cathy Hampshire said that, from the perspective of children from Hillside Elementary School, she was hearing that the situation would be that all of the elementary children would be together and then the children from Hillside Elementary School would transition by themselves as a small group to a collective group, whereas before all the kids transitioned into grade 9 on the same playing field. She said that there was a lot of concern expressed in the community being the only kids transitioning into a school where those kids have already had bonds and friendships. There was a sense of community from the school in Walkerton but she didn't want the committee to lose sight of the smaller group of kids from Hillside Elementary School, Grand Bend Public School, and East Lambton Elementary School, as they will really notice this and it will be a big challenge going forward, especially if it is a super school and they have a sense of community built. She said that this is a real concern coming from Kettle and Stony Point First Nation and other communities.</p>	

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	<p>Andrea Walden said that from the very beginning she has said that the other communities should be represented on the committee and requested that and this is why. She said that the Director's position is that they are not required as this is the minimum, but she likes to exceed requirements. She said that there should be two separate schools on the same site so there is more of a transition, and hopefully we can be more welcoming in that respect.</p> <p>Carolyn Mosier remarked that they experience this in Walkerton, as well, as they have feeder schools that come in at the secondary level. She said they have things in place to help that and minimize the transition for those kids.</p> <p>Principal Thomas explained that they work in partnership with schools so they can come together.</p> <p>Cathy Hampshire asked if the students are First Nation students.</p> <p>Principal Thomas said that he did not know.</p> <p>Cathy Hampshire said that she values the partnerships we have developed in this area, with sports and other things. She said she is still very concerned with the super school and it will be difficult for the students to leave their community. She said she had been asked to convey that by the educational community.</p> <p>Andrea Walden asked Cathy Hampshire if the community would feel better if it was a new build entirely with access to the sports facilities.</p> <p>Cathy Hampshire responded that in a perfect world, she thought they would, and the message that came through in her community consultations was that they wanted a strong vibrant secondary program, but are apprehensive with a super school and the inclusion part.</p> <p>Andrea Walden asked if it was more about this site to some extent.</p> <p>Cathy Hampshire responded no.</p> <p>Andrea Walden asked if it would be better if the school was on the same site with a separate elementary and a separate high school and attached to the community centre.</p>	

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	<p>Cathy Hampshire responded that yes, as it is not necessarily this site, it is the idea of a super school.</p> <p>Superintendent Girardi told the committee that the transition for students that would not be at the school from Kindergarten to Grade 8 should not be minimized. He said that he wasn't on the tour with Principal Slater, but he had a conversation with her outside of that because her daughter came in Grade 9. He said that it is important to make sure things are done right for students when they transition, and that all students need to have a supportive environment to learn. He explained that Tecumseh Vista Academy also has students that come in for Grade 9 as well, so there are examples of transitions to look at. He said that everyone is referring to a "super school," but he likes to refer to it as a community school.</p> <p>Andrea Walden said that Kettle and Stony Point First Nation sees themselves as a community themselves, so to call it a community school is excluding them.</p> <p>Tim Houle said that Watford is a community school as well and, no matter if a secondary school is built, if three elementary schools are combined, there will still be a large group of elementary kids together when they go to high school.</p> <p>Andrea Walden said that sometimes appearances matter and if it appears to be different, that two separate buildings may ease the transition. She said that her family has been in the community and she values the friendships and wants them to feel comfortable in the school and values them being here. She said that she wants to do whatever can be done to include them. She said that if you feel it's all one school and optically something can be done to make them feel more welcome, then she thought it should be done because they are part of the extended community, but consider themselves one community.</p> <p>Cathy Hampshire said that she agrees that the community does see themselves as a unique community, but also looks outwards, and there has been a lot of healing in the area over the last 20 years. She said that moving forward the optics need to be addressed as far as we still need to be mindful that leaving a community is traumatic for everyone, but there is an extra element with First Nation students.</p> <p>Andrea Walden said that part of this is a legacy of residential schools and that is when the government imposed an educational solution on people and anything</p>	

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	<p>we can do to make everyone feel welcome and included and feel they have a voice we should consider. Optically if we have to divide the school up a bit so everyone feels welcome and they want to come to school, and don't choose to go in to Sarnia, then we need to do that.</p> <p>Doug Vaessen asked Principal Leystra if there is a place in North Lambton Secondary School for First Nation students, as he attends Lambton College and there is a large department that helps First Nation students feel included. They have a huge outreach program, and something in place like that at the high school could help alleviate the transition.</p> <p>Principal Leystra responded that she and Cathy Hampshire talked about that, to bring all elementary schools into the building more than once or twice to make sure people feel comfortable. She said that the school has the Rosemary Wolfe Room, and an Ojibwe room.</p> <p>Cathy Hampshire explained that there are two full time workers at North Lambton Secondary School and they are paid by Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. They are their employees and are there to support all students, not exclusive of First Nation students. She said that she doesn't anticipate that being a problem going forward, and there is a good relationship between this Board and Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, which is far better than elsewhere in the province.</p> <p>Rhonda Leystra said that they do a wonderful job with student outreach. At North Lambton Secondary School, there is an Ojibwe course, and a First Nation English course open to all students. She said that it is important for First Nation students to feel they have a presence in the school and are welcome.</p> <p>Doug Vaessen said that if a Kindergarten to Grade 12 school opened a room, such as the Rosemary Wolfe Room, it would be a beneficial information base for students.</p> <p>Superintendent Girardi said there is a lot of time for discussion if we move forward on that path. Right now, the LKDSB is in the process of designing and moving forward with construction of GLSS with a partnership with Aamjiwnaang First Nation.</p>	

<p>Follow-up from Working Meeting #1 and Public Meeting #2:</p> <p>6.1 Architectural Drawings from ROA Studio Inc.</p> <p>6.2 Transportation Discussion</p> <p>6.3 School Boundary Discussion – Memo from Committee Member</p> <p>6.4 Petition from Community to Maintain Existing School Boundaries</p> <p>6.5 Letters to Ministry in Regard to New Construction</p>	<p><u>Architectural Drawings from ROA Studio Inc.</u></p> <p>Marco Raposo explained to the committee that in addition to what was shared at Public Meeting #2 they took some feedback with them and evaluated some criteria as part of those discussions. He explained that they would share some elements on the overall master plan with the committee and descend into the vision of what the Kinnwood Central School site could look like. He explained that it is unclear if it will be a brand new site or an addition, but the task at hand is to ensure that the Kinnwood Central School site is a viable option. A video was played on the screen for the committee showing the architectural visualization.</p> <p>Chris O'Reilly asked Marco Raposo to show the committee the elementary playground area.</p> <p>Superintendent Girardi remarked that at Public Meeting #2 it was mentioned that the North Lambton Secondary School site was 102,000 square feet and the response was that the Kinnwood Central School site was 84,000 square feet. Marco Raposo explained that the secondary school portion including the Administration area would be 84,000 square feet, the elementary school portion with the addition of FDK classrooms and regular classrooms would be 42,000 square feet, for a total of almost 130,000 square feet.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> Principal Thomas suggested that the secondary school section be moved closer to the track as it is wasted space as the secondary school students would not use it. This way there would be more green space for the elementary students. The seniors' centre would have more green space to look at and could watch the children play, and the parking lot at the back could be extended.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Cathy Hampshire asked where the Grade 4 and 5 students would play sports outside for Phys. Ed., as it does not seem like there is ample space.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Superintendent Girardi explained that there is an element in this application where the Board can ask to purchase land, so if land was purchased the yard could be expanded.</p> <p>Marco Raposo explained that a piece of the 400 meter track is on a large flood plain. If this is shifted to additional property, the potential for development of this outdoor area is much greater.</p>	
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**Question:** Andrea Walden asked if the additional property is agricultural.

**Response:** Marco Raposo responded that it is residential.

**Follow-up Comment:** Andrea Walden commented that there is a shortage of residential vacant lots.

**Follow-up Comment:** Doug Vaessen remarked that there is a lot of land around the Forest area that is available.

**Follow-up Comment:** Andrea Walden commented that it is not serviced land.

**Follow-up Comment:** Doug Vaessen said that he knows of five serviced entity lots that have been for sale for a long time, and that there are a lot of serviced lots that have sat empty.

**Response:** Marco Raposo explained that there is a large parcel of 4 phase subdivision development being planned for the area near the Kinnwood Central School site. He said that as far as the potential of the LKDSB acquiring land, it would have to be done through process and procurement, but the potential is there.

Joseph Ouellette commented that there is enough room to put a baseball diamond where the pond is and the program can fit on the site.

**Comment:** Principal Thomas commented that if the building was moved over there would be more green space and the students could access the baseball diamond.

Superintendent Girardi explained that the goal of the architects is to consider possibilities and hypotheticals, and whether the school is on the Kinnwood Central School site or another site, the Board would have the option of purchasing land.

Joseph Ouellette commented that Walkerton District Community School is around the same as the Kinnwood Central School site.

**Comment:** Tim Houle commented that the more the high school section is moved over towards the track, the further apart the two schools are and it is losing what Walkerton District Community School had.

**Response:** Marco Raposo responded that it would be a longer building and would lose the connection between elementary and secondary. It also important that we are being respectful to neighbours when considering design.

**Comment:** Chris O'Reilly remarked that the site sizes are the same, but Walkerton District Community School is a two storey building, so its footprint on the ground is much less. She said that she was at Bosanquet Central School when there were over 500 students and she knows what it is like in the yard and it is busy. She said that parents have talked to her about the size of the yard, supervision, and tarmac recesses, so there needs to be more thinking on what that looks like.

**Response:** Marco Raposo said that the principal knows the challenges you face, such as tarmac recesses. From a design solution, as far as shifting the volumes, that can be incorporated.

Superintendent Girardi explained that, regardless of what the option is, should the Final Staff Report talk about the consolidation and Trustees vote in favour of either option, there would be consultation with the Transition Committee to develop a plan that works for the community. He said that there would be things the Board would want to hear from those groups so that the site can be made into something that works for the students and families.

**Question:** Chris O'Reilly asked about the Board's insurance with the pond on the property.

Superintendent Girardi said that there is a fence around the pond at present. There are potential benefits to having the pond on the site, but we would have to investigate further.

**Question:** Andrea Walden asked if it is subject to local conservation authority.

**Response:** Marco Raposo responded that an environmental study has to be done on it, and will evaluate possible endangered species that may have moved in to it. He said that if everything is well, then it can be removed or made a part of the school. He said that 130,000 square feet of space will be developed and those are pieces that have to be taken in to consideration for storm water management, and for developing it as a low impact storm management component.

	<p><b>Question:</b> Andrea Walden asked if the plan is to keep the pond, as it will be used as storm water management.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Marco Raposo responded that it will potentially be kept, and that a portion of the pond is being consumed by the track while maintaining adequate size for storm water management.</p> <p><b>Follow-up Question:</b> Andrea Walden asked if the pond is bigger than shown in the site vision.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Marco Raposo responded yes.</p> <p><b>Follow-up Question:</b> Andrea Walden commented that it is assumed that authority will be given from the conservation authority.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Marco Raposo responded yes.</p> <p><b>Follow-up Comment:</b> Andrea Walden commented that they would do a species at risk assessment.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Marco Raposo responded that an environmental study would need to be done.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Tim Houle asked if any of the new build for the secondary school would have two floors.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Marco Raposo responded yes and that a portion has a large glass atrium looking into the sports field.</p> <p>Superintendent Girardi commented that the gymnasium would be lowered to be conscious of the neighbouring facility.</p> <p>Joseph Ouellette explained that where there are regular classrooms in the secondary area, the vision is two storey but the technology wings require a higher structure so you wouldn't want to put a second floor there.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> Tim Houle commented that someone would have to help design the area behind the stage to ensure there is enough room.</p>	
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**Response:** Marco Raposo responded that one side of the stage connects directly to the drama room.

**Question:** Chris O'Reilly asked where the mechanical room was located.

**Response:** Marco Raposo said that it would be located in the basement. He explained that from the cost perspective they would be looking at a VRF system, which is the most economical means of heating and cooling the school.

**Question:** Megan McIntyre asked if you would have to walk through the cafeteria to get to the gymnasium.

**Response:** Marco Raposo responded no, and explained that there are designated paths of egress, which are means of safely exiting the facility.

**Question:** Megan McIntyre asked if the elementary students would be using the gymnasium as well.

**Response:** Superintendent Girardi responded that it would be a discussion with the school.

**Follow-up Question:** Megan McIntyre asked if the elementary students would have a way of getting to the gymnasium without walking through the cafeteria.

**Response:** Marco Raposo responded that the only divide is the Administration Hub and you can get to shared spaces through there.

**Question:** Megan McIntyre asked if the library would be shared.

**Response:** Marco Raposo said that from what has been shared with them from the Board that it would be shared.

**Question:** Andrea Walden said that she lives in the bog and the water table is an issue for her, and remarked that the Board would be building in the basement.

**Response:** Marco Raposo explained that there are engineering solutions for that.

**Comment:** Doug Vaessen said that every house in Forest has a basement so he doesn't think it's that much of a concern.

Marco Raposo explained that the electricity cannot go out in this facility.

**Question:** Madison Pickard asked if the building is all open concept or if there are doors to get from the elementary side to the secondary side.

**Response:** Marco Raposo responded that they haven't gotten to that level of detail and design, but it is not open concept, although some common areas are.

Superintendent Girardi remarked that there are also some discussion with Safe Schools and how to work with the building in terms of lock down and egress in certain situations, having the building as accessible as possible while allowing it to be locked up in certain areas, just as it would be with a new construct.

**Question:** Shelly Somerville asked if reconstruction would include air-conditioning at the Kinnwood Central School site.

**Response:** Marco Raposo said that his firm's past experience with working with LKDSB and other boards, is that every school they touch they bring it up to standards.

Superintendent Girardi explained that should the Board receive the money asked for they would try to do all of the updates. The goal is that if a building is touched, it is done right and updated for a space that works into the future, regardless of if it is the Kinnwood Central School site or new construct.

**Question:** Bailie Richards asked if a tornado drill would be done in the basement.

**Response:** Marco Raposo explained that the basement is designated now through the planning process as a service space, so students couldn't access that space, but drills would be done through programming.

Superintendent Girardi explained that the Administration would designate certain areas to occupy in the case of a tornado.

Marco Raposo remarked that he was involved with the Shores Arena, and the building is a post disaster area.

Superintendent Girardi explained that most of the new school constructs have a

lot more windows so there are other schools that deal with that as well.

Joseph Ouellette remarked that there are windows now that are hurricane proof.

**Follow-up Comment:** Bailie Richards commented that the Board would be spending more money on those windows.

**Response:** Joseph Ouellette responded that it would meet Ontario Regulation standards.

Marco Raposo commented that there are requirements for daylight into the building and daylight harvesting, which is utilizing light to be more cost effective and a more green design.

#### Transportation Discussion

Superintendent Girardi stated that at the end of this meeting, he will ask for final input. He said that throughout the process two potential options on transporting students have been discussed should the LKDSB move to one site. Kent Orr shared some mitigating strategies at Working Meeting #2 and was present to take committee questions.

**Question:** Principal Leystra commented that Kent Orr had a great presentation, and asked if the school were to have a different location, how much would that impact busing and students currently walking.

**Response:** Kent Orr responded that it could have an impact. He explained that in the elementary panel there is a 1.6 km walk boundary, so if the school is moved too far to one side of the town, more kids may need to be transported.

Scott Hall, CLASS, remarked that they did not have current walking number information with them at the meeting.

Superintendent Girardi remarked that it is difficult as although there are recommendations from the community, there has been no site chosen. However, he said that any potential additional costs for transportation wouldn't negate moving to a new site should the Trustees vote in favour and should the Ministry provide the funding.

Doug Vaessen said that students on this end of town walk and others get a bus,

and younger kids near Canadian Tire get courtesy seats.

**Question:** Chris O'Reilly thanked Kent Orr for his presentation at Public Meeting #2, and asked the number of students that would be on each bus. She said that there are places that have 3 kids to a seat so the bus is full, but there wouldn't be a classroom with that many kids with one adult facing the other way responsible and driving the bus, for safety purposes.

**Response:** Kent Orr responded that passenger ratings for a full sized bus are 72 passengers, but some of the newer models have smaller seats near the emergency exit so they hold 70. He explained that CLASS doesn't load to that capacity, and a bus with secondary students would be loaded to 48 passengers and a bus with elementary students would be loaded up to 60 passengers, as there could be 3 to a seat for younger grades. He said that a Kindergarten to Grade 12 bus would have a threshold of 54 people, also taking into account sporting events, parents, and students driving. He explained that for secondary, CLASS could plan for 55-60 passengers because some students make their own way to school.

**Question:** Cathy Hampshire asked if there are any buses equipped with video surveillance.

**Response:** Kent Orr responded that in 2008 they invested heavily in this and 100% of the fleet has video surveillance, which is used quite regularly.

Superintendent Girardi remarked that CLASS changed the bus routes due to the consolidation of GLSS last year. There were some concerns with routes, so during the year CLASS redesigned the routes to improve service. He said that Kent Orr and his team are always looking at making things more efficient.

School Boundary Discussion – Memo from Committee Member

Superintendent Girardi explained that there was a memo sent from one of the committee members, which was distributed to the ARC. The committee can read it at their leisure, unless there were questions on the memo or additional comments from Andrea Walden.

There were no questions or additional comments.

Petition from Community to Maintain Existing School Boundaries

Superintendent Girardi explained to the committee that there was a petition submitted to the Board, and a summary had been included in the package as well as posted on the LKDSB website.

**Question:** Doug Vaessen asked who makes the final decision on the school boundaries.

**Response:** Superintendent Girardi explained that Administration presents a position to the Board, Trustees vote, and they can agree, overturn, or deny.

**Follow-up Question:** Doug Vaessen asked if ultimately the Trustees make that decision.

**Response:** Superintendent Girardi responded yes and that Trustees have been at a lot of the Pupil Accommodation Review meetings, have read the material, and make the final decision.

**Comment:** Tim Houle commented that although there are opinions, it really has nothing to do with this committee.

**Response:** Superintendent Girardi responded that it was not part of the Initial Staff Report, as the plan was to keep the boundaries of the schools involved intact, and said that it came up because people in some communities expressed desire during the process to have the boundaries changed.

**Follow-up Comment:** Tim Houle commented that it wouldn't be in the Final Staff Report either as it is a separate issue.

**Response:** Superintendent Girardi explained that the Trustees could decide to change the boundaries, which is why some people have seen this and have said they don't want the boundaries changed, and some have said change the boundaries for elementary students and not for secondary students.

**Comment:** Doug Vaessen said that he understands some people from Camlachie and surrounding area have requested boundary changes, but asked how have people who have not attended the meetings know that has happened. He said that maybe other families do not want us to change the boundaries.

**Comment:** Shelly Somerville stated that Principal Vleck of Aberarder Central School let people know through numerous emails and newsletters that meetings were happening and herself as the Parent Representative has reached out to numerous people.

**Comment:** Doug Vaessen remarked that it hasn't been a whole lot different in Forest, but people think it is just about the schools closing and not about boundaries changing and unless other people that live in the same area are informed, they wouldn't know.

**Comment:** Shelly Somerville commented that they have gone around and got people to sign the petition.

**Comment:** Andrea Walden commented that she received those signatures in three days, and it was just a number of people she knew who didn't want the boundaries changed.

**Comment:** Doug Vaessen commented that he was concerned that it has been brought up in the Accommodation Review Committee and should be brought up separately with the community.

**Response:** Superintendent Girardi explained that there are people who want the boundaries changed and those who don't want them changed. He explained that in the Final Staff Report there is a section on community consultation which includes information gathered, but the final decision rests with the Trustees. A boundary change was not in the Initial Staff Report, but the communities involved have commented on this.

**Comment:** Principal Thomas said that the Town of Plympton-Wyoming was hoping to change the elementary boundary, but leave the secondary boundary the same.

Superintendent Girardi remarked that it was a delegation at Public Meeting #2.

**Comment:** Principal Thomas commented that the difficulty with moving the elementary boundary would mean some Errol Village graduates would go to North Lambton Secondary School and some to Northern Collegiate Institute and Vocational School.

Superintendent Girardi explained that following the delegation presentation there

was a comment similar to that from a member of the public that if you change the boundaries, it will still take kids away from the secondary school because they will follow their friends to another high school.

**Comment:** Tim Houle said that he thought boundary changes should be separate from what the committee was doing and that those people want those boundaries changed anyways as they want to go to Sarnia rather than North Lambton Secondary School.

**Comment:** Chris O'Reilly commented that the only reason it impacts this is because if the boundary is changed and 20-something children leave the catchment area, that makes the new school down a classroom and a teacher, which affects programming.

**Comment:** Tim Houle said that it is still a boundary discussion.

Superintendent Girardi asked Tim Houle if he disagreed with a discussion on boundaries as being part of the discussion and it should be another discussion.

Tim Houle responded that it impacts the schools, but those boundaries are going to be asked to be changed anyways.

#### Letters to Ministry in Regard to New Construction

Superintendent Girardi remarked that at Public Meeting #2 an idea was brought forward to have letters accompany the Board's funding application to the Ministry. He said that the Board has received a number of letters, which will be shared with the committee. He explained that the Board has also received comments from people who do not want anything done in terms of the consolidation. He said that Superintendent McKay has said he would like to provide that position from the community and is looking for input up to February 15<sup>th</sup> should anyone wish to submit a letter. He said that this idea was also brought up at the Orientation Meeting. He reminded the committee that there has been no decision from Trustees, and the Final Staff Report would be written following the meeting. There are 3 meetings of importance still to come – February 7, 2017, a Special Board Meeting to be held in Sarnia, where the Final Staff Report will be presented to the Trustees, February 28, 2017, a Board Meeting where people can delegate directly to Trustees in response to the Final Staff Report, and March 21, 2017, a Board Meeting for the Trustee vote.

Superintendent Girardi explained that those who would like to delegate to the Trustees will email their request to Trish Johnston at [Trish.Johnston@lkdsb.net](mailto:Trish.Johnston@lkdsb.net).

**Comment:** Andrea Walden said that she thinks there is misinformation in the community, and asked if the Municipality of Lambton Shores wanted to delegate in relation to the potential of the location issue, should they do this at the February 28, 2017 meeting.

**Response:** Superintendent Girardi responded that should the recommendation move forward for a new construct and the Board receives funding for the construct and to buy land, there would need to be consultation with the local government. He said that the Board has a good relationship with the Municipality of Lambton Shores because they have common goals of trying to do what's best for the community and what is best for students.

**Follow-up Comment:** Andrea Walden said that her concern is that the LKDSB is filing an application tomorrow, and there is some concern that if the LKDSB wants to put in the best possible application ideally someone should be delegating earlier in the process so the LKDSB gets the conditional approval that they want.

**Response:** Superintendent Girardi asked Andrea Walden who she was referring to.

**Follow-up Comment:** Andrea Walden responded that she was referring to Lambton Shores. She also commented that the LKDSB is seeing this as a fact-finding mission while other people are seeing this as the LKDSB submitting an application to the government and it should be the best application possible.

**Response:** Superintendent Girardi responded that he views it as information gathering from the community.

**Question:** Tim Houle asked if the Final Staff Report represents the opinion of the Board rather to renovate or build new.

**Response:** Superintendent Girardi explained that Senior Administration puts forward a recommendation in the Initial Staff Report that it deems would be successful for funding and would still meet the needs of the local community. He said that there has been dismay expressed that the process has to be completed without knowing the outcomes of funding. He said that he believes that either

	<p>application could be successful, but there are other factors the Ministry looks at in this application that Senior Administration is not privy to.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Cathy Hampshire asked if, going forward with the Final Staff Report, will the Board articulate feelings and sentiments expressed by specific communities, for instance Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, as their position preference of a new construct in a different site and that a strong and vibrant high school is important. She asked if those positions will be given to Trustees so they can hear different voices from the community.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Superintendent Girardi stated that the Board does its best to try and give the sentiment of what is expressed.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Cathy Hampshire asked if there would be an opportunity to see the section that pertains to Kettle and Stony Point First Nation prior to it going to Board on February 7, 2017 in order to review to ensure it is accurate and there are no misunderstandings.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Superintendent Girardi explained that there would be an opportunity to provide final thoughts to be included in the Final Staff Report. He said that this was included in the Final Staff Reports written last year, and said that the committee members could say their thoughts tonight and they would be included.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Andrea Walden asked if a letter from the band council addressed to the board saying the new construct would be a preferred option, would be helpful for the Final Staff Report. She asked Cathy Hampshire if it would give her a level of comfort.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> Cathy Hampshire responded that she is not sure if the band council would want to get directly involved and that they recognize that it is a decision of the LKDSB.</p>	
<p>Questions from Committee Members</p>	<p><b>Question:</b> Bailie Richards asked if the Grade 8 students are obligated to go to the super school or could they go to AMSS or LCCVI.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Superintendent Girardi responded that at the secondary level there are open boundaries and LKDSB students can go to other schools, as long as they can get to the school on their own.</p>	

	<p><b>Question:</b> Bailie Richards asked, for staff working at Bosanquet Central School, North Lambton Secondary School, Aberarder Central School, and Kinnwod Central School, if they will be working at the super school, as well, or would it have a whole new staff.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Superintendent Girardi responded that Administration works with staff, Human Resources, and union partners, in order to bring the staffs together from the consolidated schools because the number of students doesn't necessarily change. He explained that there are natural changes like retirement, and people could be surplus, but Administration would prefer for the staff to stay because they know the students and therefore the transition would be much smoother.</p>	
<p>ARC Final Input to LKDSB Administration for inclusion in the Final Staff Report</p>	<p>Superintendent Girardi explained to the committee that at the end of the Final Staff Report final words or thoughts from committee members are added should they wish to provide this. He said that it is not mandatory, it is not a recommendation that the Board necessarily follows, it is opinions or thoughts from committee members should they wish to put them forward.</p> <p>Committee members Bailie Richards, Chris O'Reilly, Tim Houle, Megan McIntyre, and Cathy Hampshire provided remarks to be included in the Final Staff Report. Andrea Walden provided a statement to be included in the Final Staff Report following the meeting.</p> <p><b>Bailie Richards:</b></p> <p>"It's a bad idea. In my mind, from a kid's perspective, it just doesn't seem like a K-12 school is going to work right now, there's just too many problems."</p> <p><b>Chris O'Reilly:</b></p> <p>"This is both a difficult process and an opportunity. The difficulty: none of us want change; we all like things in our comfort zone. It is a difficult process for those of you who work for the Board; I admire your work and don't envy the task that you have because it is difficult on many layers. In other contexts, I have had to do some of the same thing, so I appreciate that these decisions are difficult.</p> <p>At these meetings, our committee has conducted themselves with a lot of respect and fairness, which I think is a testimony to the community of Lambton Shores</p>	

regardless of where we call home. This is a sign that we live in a community that cares very much about our community, about our kids, and about one another. In rural communities we are used to rubbing shoulders with, and living side by side with, people with very different opinions than we do. But when the chips are down, this community pulls together. I am proud to live in a community where cars still pull over for a funeral procession, and where young people on the main street will stop and take their hats off. I am proud to live in a community where people are willing to step up and offer their time. We have talked with our youth group about that- Bailie was there- about the importance of young people being involved in processes like this, especially as they grow into adulthood. You don't always get what you want, but you have the opportunity to express your opinion and not to let anybody intimidate you into thinking you don't have something to say.

I believe we have an opportunity here to do something here terrific. We have an opportunity to build a community school that will offer something to this community, beyond its borders, and to the future of Lambton County. I want this to be a school that works for everyone. I want this to be a school that parents want to send their children to. I want this to be a school that is going to benefit every community within Lambton Shores and will make us proud. It is critically important that we do this right – which is not necessarily the easiest, or cheapest, or politically dictated way. Please do this right; listen to what this community is saying.”

**Tim Houle:**

“I'm frustrated by not having actual results. I feel like we have talked about a lot but I guess what you want is just to gather all of that information and give it to the Trustees to make their decision. I want to say there is a reason why building here is also good. A couple of them are access to nursing home, I think there's value in the high school students being here as well, also I think we would hurt the businesses downtown by removing all the high school students from here, because they do go down there and eat at Joey Little's and Godfather's, I think they live off of their income. I see a lot of value in just building here. I am scared about traffic and the busing and the parents that pick their kids up from Kinnwood so I'm hoping that can all be worked out. I was against building here originally but now that I've seen the design and I've seen what we can do and where we are.”

**Megan McIntyre:**

“I just think generally from the people I’ve talked to at my school that they are kind of leery about the whole thing, just because this is our school, and they are kind of leery about this location because a lot of them are from here and think it’s a small area, and from the people I’ve talked to they want a new school if we are going to do it at all because they don’t really know how it’s going to work. Just want to make sure for the high school portion that if you do have it added on that they have everything represented: the drama kids who want their drama, and the tech. kids want their good tech. rooms, and the science kids want good science labs. They would be more comfortable with the whole transition if we have those proper facilities in order so that everybody can be included.”

**Cathy Hampshire:**

“On behalf of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation we appreciate being included in this process. The consultation piece is a huge piece that has not always been between our community and the Board historically, but those are days of the past. Going forward Kettle and Stony Point values the relationships around its surrounding communities. We support a strong vibrant secondary program in the north area. We don’t want to send our kids any further away than they are right now. We actually do send some of our students in to Sarnia for accessing Special Education programs and that which we would like to see an enhanced program at North Lambton so that some of our students that have to go in to Sarnia each day and get on the bus at 6:30, they don’t have to travel that distance. We would like to encourage a strong secondary program here. We do have big concerns about that inclusion piece if it’s a K-12 school and there’s a huge fear in that. We appreciate being included and that our voice is being listened to and hopefully we will have a new build in a new location. We expect that going forward, whatever the decision is from the Trustees with regards to a school servicing the North part of the County, it will ensure that it incorporates and welcomes a strong indigenous voice.”

**Andrea Walden:**

Community members in north Lambton are saddened at the proposed loss of our small rural elementary schools. Many people I have spoken to appreciate the financial constrains the LKDSB is under as a result of the Ministry of Education's funding formula for rural schools which under-funds schools in rural Ontario.

	<p>This community is arguably <u>unique in the Province</u> as instead of focusing on trying to keep the rural elementary schools open, we have focused on attempting to work with the LKDSB to create the best possible new school for our community. The LKDSB should build the proposed new school near the existing Shores Recreation Centre (arena/indoor track and gym) and should “partner” with the Municipality of Lambton Shores to utilize this existing facility for the benefit of the students and community. The new school should also reflect the culture and economic needs of the community by focusing on STEM subjects and the trades which will benefit both students’ educational opportunities and the economy of this community.</p> <p>Superintendent Girardi remarked that the task that the committee signed up for was not an easy one, and thanked the committee for their time on behalf of the LKDSB. He further remarked that the committee handled difficult conversations with a lot of respect and class and it was greatly appreciated. He explained to the committee that final thoughts would be sent to the individual members to ensure the wording is correct.</p>	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.	