

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

Date: January 25, 2010

Location: Ridgetown P.S.

Present: Committee Members: Gayle Stucke, Director of Education, Jim Costello, Superintendent of Education, Todd Tiffin, Principal Ridgetown P.S., Heather Simpson, Parent Representative Ridgetown P.S., John Ford, Community Representative Ridgetown P.S., Carol Kloostra, Principal Ridgeview Moravian E.S., Jane Lawton, Parent Representative Ridgeview Moravian E.S., Jim Brown, Community Representative Ridgeview Moravian E.S., Mark Hunt, Principal Ridgetown District H.S., Susan Kelner, Parent Representative, Ridgetown District H.S., Renee Geluk, Community Representative, Ridgetown District H.S., Katharine Hopkins, First Nation Representative, Marsha Coyne, Municipal Representative, Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Resource Personnel: Lorie Vandeschoot, Planning & Reporting Officer, Tracey Childs, Recorder

Trustees: Carmen McGregor (Chair), Randy Campbell, Scott McKinlay

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Stucke thanked everyone for attending and recognized Chair of the Board - Carmen McGregor, Trustees Randy Campbell and Scott McKinlay who were in attendance. • It was noted that there were several microphones available to facilitate the meeting. • Questions & Answers posted on the website, following the November 23rd meeting, were discussed. 	
Review of Record of Action (ROA) from the November 23, 2009 ARC Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee agreed the Record of Action from the November 23rd meeting was accurate. 	

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Review of School Information Profiles and Reference Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent Costello stated that reviewing the school information profiles and reference criteria provides the committee the opportunity to take a closer look at the Ridgetown Family of Schools. • It was explained that the purpose of the profile is to be used as a data gathering tool based on input from the Accommodation Review Committee and members of the community. • Profiles were reviewed individually and in detail. Additions and revisions will be made and posted on the website. 	
Identification of Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Stucke asked the committee to brainstorm and offer issues at hand. Issues identified were: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. declining enrolment (both elementary and secondary); 2. smaller budgets – fewer staff, program opportunities; 3. students leaving town to attend secondary programs in other schools. 	
Questions/Input from the Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question – Tracy Cofell If Ridgeview Moravian E.S. closed, can Ridgetown P.S. accommodate the extra buses? Would the neighbourhood allow the busing? Create safety issues? Answer – Director Stucke stated that this information would be provided and all factors taken into consideration if the committee were to propose closure of Ridgeview Moravian E.S. as an option. • Comment – Lynn Van Maanen, Ridgetown P.S. parent. Ridgetown P.S. currently offers the Ontario Early Years program center which makes the transition to school easier. • Question – Kathy Hill Exchange students are a benefit to the service organizations and high school. Not having a local secondary school would have an impact. At one time groups were discouraged from using school facilities. Answer – Director Stucke stated Community Partnerships are now being encouraged. Please contact the school principal for details. 	
Questions from the Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question - Why are EQAO scores better in elementary than in secondary? 	

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	<p>Answer - There are proven strategies being effectively used in the elementary schools and we are seeing positive cross panel sharing between elementary and secondary schools. For example the use of Smart boards and a variety of delivery methods can accommodate all learning styles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question - Will we be able to accomplish all that is required in 4 meetings? <p>Answer – We must have a minimum of 4 meetings but may have additional meetings if required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question – Could ARC members come to schools during school hours to observe daily activities in the schools? <p>Answer – visitors are welcome to call ahead and make arrangements with the principal for school visits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question – Is there a toll free number to contact at the Board? <p>Answer – 1-800-754-7125.</p>	
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Stucke explained a field trip to Goderich is planned to visit JK-Gr.6 and Gr.7-12 school setups on the following dates: February 3rd leaving from Dresden at 7:30 a.m.; Feb. 5 leaving from Ridgetown at 7:00 a.m. and stop in Dresden for a pick-up at 7:30 a.m. Email Director Stucke any community questions that can be addressed on the Goderich trip. • Director Stucke stated if there is interest we could bring a panel of people from the Avon Maitland School Board to Ridgetown for a “town hall” style meeting. • Record of Action (ROA) will be completed and sent electronically to all Committee Members and will be posted on the website within a week of the meeting. 	T. Childs
Dates of Future Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future meetings will be 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. School tours will take place at 6:30 p.m. for anyone interested. • February 22, 2010 - Ridgeview Moravian Elementary School • March 29, 2010 - Ridgetown District High School 	T. Childs
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. 	