

**TRANSITION COMMITTEE
 RECORD OF ACTION
 WALLACEBURG FAMILY OF SCHOOLS**

Date: December 4, 2013

Location: WDSS

Present: **Committee Members:**
 Facilitator Gayle Stucke
 Director of Education Jim Costello,
 Superintendent of Education Joy Badder
 Superintendent OF Education Mike Gilfoyle -regrets
 Psychoeducational Clinician Stephanie McMath-Williams
 CUPE President, Jody McGill- regrets
 ETFO Vice-President, John Neville -regrets
 OSSTF Vice-President, Terry Stitch - regrets

A.A. Wright Public School Representatives

Principal	Chris Coyle
Teachers	Jean Van Damme, Crystal Babbitt
School Council Co-chairs	David Gough
Clerical/Custodian	
Parent/Community	Lisa Findlater
First Nation/Parent	Shawna Smith
Educational Assistant	Michelle Freeburn
Students	Lillian Herreweyers, Gabriel Therrien

D.A. Gordon Public School Representatives

Principal	Ben Hazzard
School Council Chair	Merissa Fox
Teachers	Kathy Myers, Candi Richards
Educational Assistant	Fred McPherson - regrets
Clerical/ Custodial	Deb Aarssen
Early Years	Kim Unsworth
Community Member	Ben Moyes
Students	Allan Hadlock, Krislyn Howell

Item	Discussion	Action/Responsibility
	<p>assigned to AA Wright Public School. Reasons for that redistribution included current enrolment, available space and property size. After studying current location of D.A. Gordon Public School students and projections for each of the receiving schools for 2014-15, only one of five scenarios reviewed was considered viable. The recommendation of The River Boundary, with students north of the river assigned to H.W. Burgess Public School and south of the river to A.A. Wright Public School was studied and approved by Senior Administration of LKDSB.</p> <p>Lorie Vandeschoot, Planning and Reporting Officer, shared maps and showed slides the current distribution of D.A. Gordon Public School students and explained the effects of the River Boundary.</p> <p>With this boundary it is projected that 26 new JK-6 students would be added to H.W. Burgess Public School while A.A. Wright Public School would receive 118 students from the current D.A. Gordon Public School area. With this boundary change the projected enrolment of H.W. Burgess Public School would be 216 and 282 students projected for A.A. Wright Public School.</p> <p>It was noted that in spite of Baragar predictions and close observation of local trends, accurate projections are difficult because of uncertainty of JK registrations and the fact that families moving from one area to another occurs regularly within the Wallaceburg community.</p> <p>Questions and comments from Committee Members identified several issues with reassignment of students with this River Boundary:</p> <p>AA Wright Public School would be at or above capacity;</p> <p>Parents without a vehicle would have difficulty picking up a sick child across town;</p> <p>Q. Would A.A. Wright Public School have enough students to qualify for a VP?</p> <p>A. The Board uses a formula based on enrolment to assign administration, secretarial and other support staff.</p> <p>Q. Were Catholic school boundaries considered in this boundary recommendation?</p> <p>A. No, however, Holy Family School is the home school for students south of the river so it would not be a shared transportation issue.</p> <p>Q. What will happen with Special Education students?</p> <p>A. Placement of Special Education is determined through the IPRC</p>	<p>reviewed to determine if there is another boundary option to give a better balance of students to the two receiving schools.</p>

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	<p>process on an individual basis.</p> <p>The 18 current D.A. Gordon Public School students north of the river would be separated from the majority of their friends and classmates.</p>	
<p>Sub-Committee Updates: Transition Committee</p>	<p>Sub-Committee Reports will be submitted to be posted on the Board website www.lkdsb.net</p> <p>Each Sub-Committee Lead reported on the first meeting and highlighted points of discussion as well as next steps.</p>	
<p>School orientation/transition – Kathy Myers</p>	<p>Kathy Myers reported this committee focused on concerns that had come to the attention of members, such as, new boundary and what to expect at the new schools.</p> <p>A meeting is planned with the Gordon Council Chair. Events to bring students together will be key. Director Costello confirmed that funding would be available to transport students to orientation events.</p>	
<p>Transition to gr 7/8 – Janine Day (Fred McPherson to assist)</p>	<p>Janine Day reported that issues were divided into areas (students, parents, teachers, other). Grade 6 and 7 teachers in each of the elementary schools have been asked to survey their students about concerns, fears and hopes. Many strategies are planned to prepare students for the transition to WDSS, including a trip to Ridgetown to see that school organization and speak to students and teachers.</p> <p>Parents will be given opportunities to tour WDSS, complete a survey and will receive a detailed information package.</p> <p>It was suggested that staff meet as soon as transfers are complete for both planning and social activities.</p> <p>The report included an extensive list of future plans.</p>	

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Memorabilia –Sylke Kilbride	Sylke Kilbride reported visiting receiving schools to see potential locations for selected memorabilia meaningful to students. She also met with the Museum Curator to discuss display of older records, photos and banners. The committee agreed that students are interested in recent pictures and awards being displayed in their new schools. Ideas, such as, producing a CD of past history and a slide show of grad pictures were supported by students and other committee members.	
Resources and equipment- Kim Unsworth	<p>Kim Unsworth reported this committee recognized the need to differentiate between resources that would be allocated by Board staff, such as, computers, and other items that could be staff and school council decisions. It was recommended that librarians from each of the schools have a day to work together to determine needs and that each school develop a Wish List of resources and equipment.</p> <p>Former Principal, Isabella Beattie, was introduced and explained the role she played in supporting the Ridgetown transition, such as, hiring professional movers. She will participate in the January Transition Committee Meeting to share more details and suggest timelines.</p>	
Special events (including Graduation and awards) – David Gough	David Gough reported this committee had just begun to brainstorm ideas and was looking at the Ridgetown experience. Members will be in touch through email over the next two months to bring forward 6 or 7 recommendations.	
Extra-curricular Activities – Kristan Blair	Kristan Blair reported on this committee’s first meeting. Members felt it important to include clubs in addition to athletics. An informal survey is being conducted in Grade 6 and 7 classes to determine student interests and ideas about team uniforms and mascot. It is hoped that junior sports of cross country and soccer can be offered in the two elementary schools and that all 5 current team opportunities will exist for grade 7 and 8 students. Depending on staffing and gym opportunities two teams could be possible in each sport. Potential schools for league play will be contacted.	

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Questions from Members	<p>Q. How will announcements and bells be handled at WDSS?</p> <p>A. Some announcements will be at a common time. Bells will be reprogrammed for specific areas of the school.</p>	<p>Rob Lee</p>
Questions from Public	<p>1. Parent/Teacher. Boundary should give a more equitable distribution of students to each school. A.A. Wright Public School could be over capacity and H.W. Burgess Public School just 83% of capacity. Portables would be an issue if needed as they don't have smart boards or internet connection.</p> <p>2. Parent Q. Percentage of students to go to H.W. Burgess Public School is small. Isn't there a way to have more students assigned to H.W. Burgess Public School? A. Other boundary scenarios resulted in too many students going to H.W. Burgess Public School which has no room for expansion.</p> <p>3. Teacher Q. How will this boundary proposal be made public? A. Everyone in attendance should take this information back to staff rooms, School Councils and classmates. Principals will include boundary proposal in Newsletters. Information will be shared with media as requested.</p> <p>4. Parent With only 18 current students assigned to H.W. Burgess Public School in River Boundary proposal it would be better to send all D.A. Gordon Public School students to A.A. Wright Public School.</p> <p>5. Q. With many activities and decisions on hold until staffing is determined. Couldn't staffing occur earlier as an exceptional circumstance? A. Staffing is a contractual agreement with unions. Teachers in closing school will be given priority but the date is set in April.</p>	<p>Senior Administration to review. If portables needed for short term each would have a smart board and internet connectivity.</p> <p>If A.A. Wright Public School were to be over capacity in future an addition of two classrooms could be proposed to the Board of Trustees.</p>

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	<p>6. Student</p> <p>Q. Could another boundary possibility be Wallace Street extended east to Baxter Estates being assigned to H.W. Burgess Public School?</p> <p>A. This will be looked at but would be determined by number of students in that area. With no capacity for expansion H.W. Burgess Public School can receive a limited number of students.</p>	<p>Boundary Review staff to study.</p>
Meeting Schedule and Next Meeting Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 29, 2014, 6:30 p.m. @ D.A. Gordon Public School • March 26, 2014, 6:30 p.m. @ H.W. Burgess Public School • April 30, 2014, 6:30 p.m. @ WDSS • May 28 (if needed) 	
Next Steps	<p>Sub-Committees will continue to meet.</p> <p>Staff will review other boundary suggestions.</p> <p>Information from tonight's meeting will be shared with the public.</p>	
Adjournment	8:15 p.m.	