

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

Date: March 26, 2014

Location: H.W. Burgess Public School

Present: **Committee Members:**

Facilitator Gayle Stucke

Director of Education Jim Costello, (regrets)

Superintendent of Education Joy Badder

Superintendent OF Education Mike Gilfoyle (regrets)

Psychoeducational Clinician Stephanie McMath-Williams

CUPE President, Jody McGill

ETFO Vice-President, John Neville (regrets)

OSSTF Vice-President Scott Stitch (regrets)

Isabella Beattie (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 (regrets)

Students Lillian Herreweyers (regrets), Gabriel Therrien

D.A. Gordon Public School Representatives

Principal Ben Hazzard School

Council Chair Merissa Fox (regrets)

Teachers Kathy Myers, Candi Richards

Educational Assistant Fred McPherson

Clerical/ Custodial Deb Aarssen

Early Years Kim Unsworth

Community Member Ben Moyes

Students Allan Hadlock, Krislyn Howell

H.W. Burgess Public School Representatives Principal

Todd Tiffin School

Council Chair Hillary Murphy (regrets)

Teachers
 Educational Assistant
 Clerical/ Custodial
 Students

Laura Comiskey, Kristan Blair (regrets)
 Rachel Martin
 Lynda Nicholson
 Carter Benedict, Zoe Broadbent

Wallaceburg District Secondary School Representatives

Principal
 School Council Chair
 Teachers
 Day First Nation
 Educational Assistant
 Clerical/Custodial
 Students

Rob Lee
 Sylkie Kilbride
 Scott Lalonde, Janine
 Suzette Sands (regrets)
 Lisa Cornish
 Russell Hebert
 Nathan Outridge, Cassidy Turner

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 Introductions	Committee Members and guests were welcomed to the 4 th Transition Committee Meeting. Trustees Cryer, McGregor, Altman and Fletcher were introduced.	
Review of Jan 29 2014 ROA	Correction of member's name – Educational Assistant Rachel Martin	
Business Arising Boundary Change Approved by Board	1. Final Boundary Recommendation and Board Decision – Superintendent Badder explained that a minor change had been made to the Recommendation. It specifically addressed three rural families south of the River and east of McNaughton Ave. It was determined that this rural area would fall within the “south of the river” reassignment to A.A. Wright. No concerns were raised. Mrs. Stucke asked if members were clear on the Boundary Decision regarding reassignment of current D.A. Gordon students and all agreed it was clear. Only the quadrant of students north of the river will be assigned to H.W. Burgess. (currently 16 students)	

	<p>2. Tone in School and Community Last meeting it was suggested that parents not directly involved with this Committee or Sub-Committee had the perception that “nothing was happening”. It was agreed to make a concerted effort to share information through a Newsletter, reports posted on the Board website and discussion at Staff and School Council Meetings. Follow up confirmed these had occurred and been effective. Recognition was also given to local media coverage.</p>	
<p>Sub-Committee Updates:</p>	<p>Chairs are reminded to submit Summary Reports to gstucke1@gmail.com for posting on the Board website.</p>	
<p>School orientation/transition – Kathy Myers</p>	<p><u>Pen Pals</u> – letters have been exchanged between D.A. Gordon students (k-5) and pen pals in A.A. Wright and H.W. Burgess.</p> <p><u>March 18</u> H.W. Burgess hosted all D.A. Gordon students for a scavenger hunt and St. Patrick’s Day celebration.</p> <p><u>February</u> - Gordon hosted pen pals from other schools to meet with informal activities. Positive feedback has been received from students, parents and staff.</p> <p><u>May 15</u>- A.A. Wright has invited students from both other schools for a picnic and scavenger hunt.</p>	
<p>Transition to gr 7/8 – Janine Day (Fred McPherson to assist)</p>	<p>Visit to Ridgetown – March 4 Grade 6 and 7 students from 3 Wallaceburg schools and their teachers, Janine and WDSS student leaders travelled by bus to RDHS. They participated in four stations organized by RDHS student leaders, and which included interactive games, mix and mingle, tour of school. A highlight was lunch in the cafeteria. Fred McPherson commented that student behavior was exemplary and that any previous fears were allayed. A suggestion from the students was that the playground area did not need to be fenced. Next activity will occur in April when Grade 5 and 6 students and their teachers will visit WDSS in single school groups.</p>	

Memorabilia –Sylke Kilbride	Connections have been made with the Museum which is naming a new Curator. A Facebook page has been setup. Memorabilia will be displayed at the April 26 D.A. Gordon Homecoming. Activities will include an auction, a student demonstration of technology for learning and a barbecue.	
Resources and equipment- Kim Unsworth	This Committee has not met in person since the last meeting but members communicate through Google Drive Page. Each school has developed a “wish list”. Inventory is being completed by staff at D.A. Gordon.	
Special events (including Graduation and awards) – David Gough	This Committee also uses email communication. They have prepared draft recommendations which will be posted on the website. Hoping for feedback when a report is brought to the April Meeting. Each school is working on its own plans for student awards.	
Extra-curricular Activities – Kristan Blair	No report.	
Transition Tasks and Timelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In Isabella Beattie’s absence, the checklist was reviewed. Boxes were delivered on schedule to D.A. Gordon and packing and purging are underway. ○ Libraries are working together to determine allocation of Grade 7 and 8 books and resources as well as the assignment of D.A. Gordon’s JK to Grade 5 books to A. A. Wright and H.W. Burgess. 	
Questions/ Suggestions from Members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WDSS student asked about bell times and class schedules for the Grade 7 and 8 wing. A – The timetable will mirror the current elementary start and stop times. 2. H.W. Burgess student asked if it would be possible to place friends in the same classrooms. A – All students will have opportunity to list friends they would like to stay with and the process will see at least one of the requests granted if possible. 	

<p>Questions/ Suggestions from Public</p>	<p>Q Will Nutrition Programs currently in elementary schools be offered to Grade 7 and 8 students.</p> <p>A Elaine Lewis, in charge of the Breakfast Programs, is looking at options. Volunteers will be important and they are usually parents in elementary schools. It was suggested that Parent Councils come together this spring to discuss options.</p>	
	<p>Q. Will Grade 7 & 8 students have a registration day?</p> <p>A. Seems like a good idea. Students would have a greater sense of identity.</p> <p>Q. What access will Grade 7 & 8 students have to extra-curricular activities.</p> <p>A. There is a great interest with WDSS staff who will work to facilitate involvement of new students.</p> <p>VP Lisa McDonald was introduced again. She shared the excitement she has seen growing amongst WDSS staff. Parents are encouraged to contact Lisa or Rob Lee if they have any questions or wish a tour of WDSS.</p>	
	<p>Q. Will First Nation Students have access to the Harriett Jacobs Centre?</p> <p>A. Opportunities will be sought for interaction with other First Nation groups such as Future Elders.</p> <p>Q. Is there a Committee working on the Playground/recess area?</p> <p>A. Principal and Superintendent are working with Building Services and have tentative plans in place. More information will be available next month.</p> <p>Q. Are there plans for any D.A. Gordon 'closure events' after April 26?</p> <p>A. A June 13 Fun Day to which the community will be invited.</p>	
<p>Next Steps</p>	<p>April Grade 5 and 6 students to visit WDSS with teachers</p> <p>April 10 A.A. Wright parents hosting an informal meeting with D.A. Gordon parents</p> <p>April 26 D.A. Gordon Reunion</p> <p>May 15 A.A. Wright is hosting picnic and scavenger hunt for all students in K to Grade 5.</p> <p>June 13 D.A. Gordon Fun Day.</p>	

Meeting Schedule and Next Meeting Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• April 30 @ WDSS• May 28 (if needed)	
Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.	