

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

Date: February 27, 2013

Location: Riverview Central School

Present: Committee Members: Gayle Stucke, ARC Facilitator, Rob Lee, Principal, Wallaceburg District Secondary School, Harvey Gamble, Parent Representative, Wallaceburg District Secondary School, Nathan Hazzard, Community Representative, Wallaceburg District Secondary School, Suzette Jacobs, First Nation Representative, Wallaceburg District Secondary School, Chris Coyle, Principal, A.A. Wright Public School, David Gough, Parent Representative, A.A. Wright Public School, Lisa Findlater, Community Representative, A.A. Wright Public School, Ben Hazzard, Principal, D.A.Gordon Public School, Lori Turner, Parent Representative, D.A.Gordon Public School, Jane McGee, Community Representative, D.A.Gordon Public School, Todd Tiffin, Principal, H.W. Burgess Public School, Heidi Benedict, Parent Representative, H.W. Burgess Public School, Brenda Mann, Principal, Riverview Central School, Lisa Bicum, Parent Representative Riverview Central School, Bob Murphy, Community Representative, Riverview Central School, Darrell Randell, Municipal Representative, St. Clair Township.

Resource Personnel: Lorie Vandeschoot, Planning and Reporting Officer, Sandi Vennettilli, Recorder

Regrets: Sheldon Parsons, Joy Badder, Jim Hazzard, Ryan Jacques, Ava Williams, Stephanie Gilbert

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	Gayle welcomed everyone and introduced the Trustees in attendance, Director Costello, Superintendent of Business Ron Andruchow and Scott Hall Transportation Analyst, C.L.A.S.S.	
Review of Record of Action from the January 23, 2013 ARC Meeting	The committee agreed that the ROA from the January 23rd meeting was accurate.	

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<p>Business Arising from the January 23, 2013 ARC Meeting</p>	<p>Jim Costello addressed the issue of moving the Board Office to Wallaceburg. In 2003 it was reviewed and decided by Trustees that it was in the best interest of the Board to maintain an office in Sarnia and Chatham.</p> <p>Lorie Vandeschoot provided a handout showing enrollment projections with space utilization for the JK-Grade 6 model for the Wallaceburg area feeder schools and W.D.S.S. Gr. 7-12 model.</p> <p>Question: At what percentage do we as a District agree that a school is full? Answer: The capacity is set by the Ministry but it does not include rooms that are used for other purposes ie: computer labs. Generally we look at the whole picture of the school.</p> <p>At the January 23rd meeting, it was suggested that an ARC communication be created for parents. Principals from the Wallaceburg family of schools distributed a handout to parents. Parent nights and informal meetings were held. Questions were answered about the Grade 7-8 model. An open forum meeting for students was held at W.D.S.S.</p> <p>Questions and comments since the last ARC meeting:</p> <p>A letter from a parent at Riverview was shared with the Committee and the Trustees.</p> <p>A question was raised if a classroom would be maintained for developmentally delayed students. Answer: Currently, A.A. Wright has a developmentally delayed classroom. This is reviewed annually, and decisions are made based on the number of students/needs in the community. The best interest of the students is always our main concern.</p> <p>Question: Why wasn't Riverview included in the consolidation of schools? Answer: In a consolidation, you are looking at schools in the same town. Riverview, in the Port Lambton/Sombra area, is the only rural school in the study. Riverview was included in the study because it is a feeder school of Wallaceburg D.S.S.</p> <p>Question: What is my role as parent rep? A review of the ARC mandate was presented.</p>	
<p>Review of Accommodation Review Committee Mandate</p>	<p>The mandate of the ARC was reviewed. As stated in Board Regulation R-AD-106-12: <i>The ARC analyzes School Information Profiles, considers alternatives and makes recommendations that meet the educational and accommodation objectives of the Lambton Kent District School Board. Throughout the process the ARC consults with community members and provides opportunity for input into the analysis.</i></p>	

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Transportation	<p>The transportation department provided information for a handout outlining student transportation in the grade 7/8 @W.D.S.S. model. It is estimated that a \$40,000 annual increase in student bussing costs would be incurred to implement a school consolidation in the town of Wallaceburg and the relocation of grade 7&8 students in the proposed model to the W.D.S.S. site. This could be offset by operational savings ie: utilities and maintenance realized by a consolidation.</p> <p>The additional cost comes from the Riverview involvement. An additional bus would be needed.</p> <p>Average ride times for Riverview students would increase from 18 minutes to 31 minutes.</p> <p>Question – Can we get information on how the computer generated model works and more information on how ride times are determined?</p>	<p>Lorie to provide map of Riverview boundary area and Scott will provide ride times</p>
Board Revenue per Pupil	<p>Lorie Vandeschoot reviewed an updated Facility Forecast provided by the Plant and Business Department that included the numbers for W.D.S.S.</p> <p>5 year Forecast costs (\$) per pupil and energy consumption costs were also provided with W.D.S.S. numbers included.</p> <p>Ministry Funding Grants for Student Needs was presented by Ron Andruchow Elementary Student \$9,556/pupil Secondary Student \$11,066/pupil</p> <p>Question – Where does the cost of staff fit into the costs? Answer- We do staff costs on an average because schools with senior staff would have higher costs.</p> <p>Question – Can we get an estimate of cost savings of staff if consolidation takes place? Answer: The initial estimate would be a savings of 3 teachers and one EA if consolidation occurred. This is an estimate as we are regulated by both Ministry and contractual obligations on class size caps.</p>	
Criteria for Recommendation on School Closure	<p>Gayle reviewed the criteria as outlined in the Board’s Pupil Accommodation/School Closure Regulations. Reference criteria used for recommending school closure include: Programs offered, age and condition of facility, school size, Ministry rated enrolment capacity, enrolment, grade configuration, staffing, transportation, community partnerships, First Nations partnerships, demographics.</p> <p>Members of the committee developed a draft of criteria for the members of the committee to review. The differences found were in the age and condition of the facilities, enrolment, and projected enrolment.</p> <p>Based on the criteria reviewed, D.A. Gordon was identified as the school recommended for closure.</p>	

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	<p>It was proposed that the 3 elementary schools in Wallaceburg be consolidated into 2 schools with the closure of D.A. Gordon Public School. H.W. Burgess and A.A. Wright would become JK-6 schools. Further discussion about Riverview Public School being included in the proposed reorganization will take place at the next ARC meeting.</p> <p>Before the vote was taken a question was asked about the merit in looking at the sale value of the properties and also if there was a school that would get more funding from the Ministry. A concern was raised that the property could turn into an eyesore if it didn't sell.</p> <p>Answer – The Ministry has been reducing the top up funding (limited to 15% at this time) that was provided to help offset costs for buildings not at capacity. The funding difference is not significant.</p> <p>We should not assume that all attempts to market the property would fail. We can apply to the Ministry for grant money to demolish the building if the property does not sell.</p> <p>Gayle asked the Committee if there was a consensus to support this proposed recommendation of naming D.A. Gordon as the school to be closed. Of the 11 voting members present, 8 indicated support, 1 no and 2 abstained. Board staff did not vote.</p>	
<p>March ARC Report to L.K.D.S.B.</p>	<p>It is hoped the committee will reach a consensus on recommendations and provide an Accommodation Report to the Board by the end of March.</p>	
<p>Questions/Input from the Committee Members</p>	<p>Question – What is the Board's responsibility for the property if a school closed?</p> <p>Answer: The Board must follow the regulations as outlined in the Education Act. The first step is to offer the building to priority groups to purchase at a fair market value. If none of the groups are interested, the Board can sell the property on the open market. There is no specific time period stated in the Act for the Board to sell the property. If the property is not sold the Board would be responsible for maintaining the site.</p>	

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<p>Questions/Input from the Public</p>	<p>Comment – Parent at Riverview I am strongly against the proposal. My family likes the rural environment. Start and end times and long bus rides will add stress to my family. I am concerned about school teams and leadership opportunities.</p> <p>Question – Parent at Riverview I am concerned about the school’s viability. What will this do to our numbers in the future?</p> <p>Answer – Even without 7/8 students, Riverview would have more students than several other rural schools. The Board sees Riverview as viable particularly with the Best Start partnership.</p> <p>Comment - Teacher at W.D.S.S. From a practical standpoint, if it is a school within a school it will be difficult to share gym time.</p> <p>Comment – Riverview Parent I am for this change. We want what is best for our kids.</p> <p>Comment –Riverview Parent I am opposed to the long bus ride. This will add stress to my family.</p> <p>Comment – Riverview Parent I am opposed to long bus ride. Our family likes the rural experience. The future of the school and the impact to the town is a concern.</p> <p>Comment – Riverview Parent I ask that Riverview be excluded from the model. I have visited Ridgetown and do not feel that the pros outweigh the cons.</p> <p>Scott McKinlay, Chair of the Board spoke on behalf of the Trustees. The Trustees are listening to the concerns. Riverview was included in the ARC to give parents the same options as the other Wallaceburg family of schools. There will be further opportunity for community input once the ARC shares the Accommodation Report with the Trustees.</p>	
<p>Next Steps</p>	<p>Additional data requested by the committee will be made available and reviewed at the next meeting. Further discussion about the inclusion of Riverview Central School will be held.</p>	

Item	Discussion	Action/Responsibility
Next Meeting	March 27, 2013 @ H.W. Burgess Public School - 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Optional school tour will take place at 6:30 p.m. for anyone interested.	
Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm	