

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

**Date:** January 9, 2013

**Location:** Wallaceburg D.S.S.

**Present:** Committee Members: Gayle Stucke, ARC Facilitator, Joy Badder, Superintendent of Education, Rob Lee, Principal, Wallaceburg District Secondary School, Harvey Gamble, Parent Representative, Wallaceburg District Secondary School, Jim Hazzard, Community Representative, Wallaceburg District Secondary School, Robin Isaac, 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, Sheldon Parsons, Community 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, Ryan Jacques, Municipal Representative, Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Darrell Randell, Municipal Representative, St. Clair Township.

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

**Regrets:** Ava Williams, Suzette Jacobs, Stephanie Gilbert

*Note: This document is not a verbatim transcript. Questions and answers have been paraphrased for the sake of clarity and brevity*

| <b>Item</b>  | <b>Discussion</b>  | <b>Action/Responsibility</b> |
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| Welcome  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gayle Stucke welcomed everyone and introduced the Trustees in attendance and Director Costello.</li> </ul>  |                              |
| Review of Record of Action from the Nov.28 ARC Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The committee agreed the Record of Action from the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting was accurate.</li> </ul>  |                              |
| Business arising from the Nov.28 ARC Meeting           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Darrell Randell provided a handout and shared the economic activities for St. Clair Township. New projects are on the horizon.</li> <li>Ryan Jacques provided a handout and reported that employment projections are stable based on recent trends. There has been employment growth in the recent months.</li> </ul> |                              |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lorie Vandeschoot provided boundary maps showing the Wallaceburg catchment areas.</li> <li>• Question: Are the boundaries that we have now from the balancing of the last ARC?<br/>Answer: Parents provided input on the redistribution of Laing students. Boundary decisions were made based on geography, student safety and busing.</li> </ul>  |                       |
| <p>Review of School Information Profiles and Reference Criteria</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principals from the Wallaceburg family of schools made presentations highlighting their schools.</li> <li>• Question: Are portables included in the size of the school at A.A. Wright?<br/>Answer: The use of portables is not included as part of the Ministry rated capacity. The Ministry looks at actual classrooms available in the building. There are classrooms within A.A. Wright building being used for other purposes (ie: computer lab). Students in the portables are included in the capacity figure.</li> <li>• Question: Is the utilization percentage of 70.36% correct on page 2 of the Riverview School profile?<br/>Answer: Yes. The utilization percentage is based on the total FTE. Riverview does not currently offer full day kindergarten so the JK/SK students are not reported as full time.</li> <li>• Question: Are there portables at H.W. Burgess?<br/>Answer: No</li> <li>• Question: Is there a Catholic elementary school close to Riverview?<br/>Answer: Yes. Sacred Heart is located in Port Lambton.</li> <li>• Question: W.D.S.S. has a municipally owned pool on school property. Does the school use Municipal staff to operate the pool? Also, what is the pool usage at W.D.S.S.?<br/>Answer: Municipal staff works in partnership with the school. The pool is used for a school swim team and swim lessons.</li> <li>• Question: In regard to community use of schools, how much does the community use W.D.S.S.?<br/>Answer: Community use of W.D.S.S. includes a gymnastic group, the Walking Club, Square Dancing and various camps. Community organizations use the auditorium and gymnasium.</li> <li>• <b>Additions to A.A. Wright School Information Profile:</b><br/>Add Extracurricular Leadership: Lunch Monitors, Reading Buddies, Speak Up Grants<br/>Describe community support partnerships: Breakfast Program<br/>Add 2 Portables on site</li> <li>• <b>Addition to Riverview Central School Information Profile:</b><br/>Add shared busing with Sacred Heart</li> <li>• Revisions will be made and posted on the website.</li> </ul> |                       |

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| Wallaceburg Family of Schools Enrolment Outlook | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lorie Vandeschoot provided a Power Point presentation which projected a declining enrolment for the Wallaceburg family of schools based on total student bodies.</li> </ul>  |   |
| Issues Resulting from Ongoing Enrolment Decline | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With declining enrolment there are fewer staff so supervision is an issue, especially in a multi-story building.</li> <li>Social issues. An opportunity to find friends with similar interests is more limited with fewer students.</li> <li>Timetabling can be challenging with fewer staff. Crossing division lines becomes a reality.</li> <li>More difficult to provide a variety of teams and clubs with fewer staff and students.</li> </ul>   |   |
| Ridgetown Experience                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Due to time, deferred to the January 23 ARC meeting.</li> </ul>  |   |
| Questions from the Committee Members            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Question: Do we have capital budget costs for each school?<br/>Answer: Future facility improvement projects are shown under "Facilities" on page 6 of the School Information Profile for each school.</li> <li>Question – Does the Board have a line or number regarding small schools that call for this review?<br/>Answer: No. Many variables are considered prior to an accommodation review.</li> <li>Question – If we consider the 7/8 option do we look at the schools as they exist now or what they will be in that model? What is the process?<br/>Answer: The committee needs to look at the whole picture of this option. We will look at enrolment numbers at a future meeting.</li> <li>Question – Would there be busing for the 7/8 students?<br/>Answer: If a decision is made to move grade 7/8 students to the high school there would be a discussion about transportation. Safety concerns are always paramount.</li> <li>Question: Is there a budget for each school for capital and operating costs?<br/>Answer: Yes.</li> </ul> | <p>Enrolment by grade level and corresponding staff requirements will be provided by Lorie Vandeschoot and Gayle Stucke</p> <p>Information from the Business department will be provided.</p> |

| Item                                   | Discussion  | Action/Responsibility  |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Question: We are losing students out of the community after grade 8. Can we get the numbers of how many students are leaving the community? Can we ask for cooperation from the St. Clair Catholic School Board?<br/>Answer: We have a good relationship with the St. Clair Catholic School Board on operational issues such as transportation. A request for sharing of facilities was made in 2004 to the St. Clair Catholic School Board and it was formally declined. Trends show that close to 50% of grade 8 students from schools outside the L.K.D.S.B. chose W.D.S.S. for their grade 9 program. There is clearly a recognized advantage to attending secondary school in your home community. W.D.S.S. attracted all grade 8 students from their L.K.D.S.B. feeder schools with the exception of 3 students who chose alternative options for grade 9 in September 2012.</li> </ul>  | <p>L.K.D.S.B. Director Costello to raise the question again with St. Clair Catholic Board Director Wubben.</p> |
| <p>Questions/Input from the Public</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Question – Former student, Wallaceburg resident<br/>Do the numbers for D.A. Gordon include the portapac?<br/>Answer – Yes. The portapac is an attached wing of the school.</li> <li>Question – H.W. Burgess Parent<br/>Is it possible to have opportunities for all students to get together for socializing and networking?<br/>Answer: We do provide enrichment opportunities for students. Events such as the Tartan Tour also provide opportunities for interaction.<br/>Question: Can we have water safety lessons for elementary students?<br/>Answer: There are opportunities that can be explored.</li> <li>Question – Riverview Parent<br/>Was FDK included in the Riverview numbers?<br/>Answer – Yes.</li> <li>Comment – Riverview Parent<br/>From personal experience in another Board, consolidation can result in too many students.<br/>Response: Yes, the Board would be conscious not to allow a school to become too big.</li> </ul> |  |

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| Next Steps    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goderich tour January 14, 2013</li> <li>• Ridgetown tour January 16, 2013</li> </ul>  |                       |
| Next Meetings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future meetings will be 7:00-9:00 p.m. Optional school tours will take place at 6:30 p.m.</li> <li>• January 23, 2013 - D.A. Gordon Public School.</li> <li>• February 27, 2013 – Riverview Central School.</li> <li>• March 27, 2013 - H.W. Burgess Public School</li> </ul> |                       |
| Adjournment   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.</li> </ul>   |                       |