

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

Date: March 27, 2013

Location: H.W. Burgess Public School

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, Nathan Hazzard, Alternate 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, Hilary Murphy, Alternate 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: Jim Hazzard, Heidi Benedict, 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 to the 5 th and final ARC meeting 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 February 27, 2013 ARC Meeting	The committee agreed that the ROA from the February 27 th meeting was accurate.	

Item	Discussion	Action/Responsibility
<p>Business Arising from the February 27, 2013 ARC Meeting</p>	<p>Items of Business Arising from the February 27th meeting are covered on the Agenda under items 4 & 7.</p> <p><u>Questions & Input Since the February 27th Meeting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two letters asking for the exclusion of the Riverview were forwarded to the Trustees. • It was asked if the committee had considered D.A. Gordon becoming a grade 7/8 school. Answer -Detailed reports on maintenance and capital costs do not support this option for D.A Gordon. • Tours of the Goderich and Ridgetown schools with the 7/8 model impressed the ARC members, teachers and students who toured. Touring the wing of W.D.S.S. which could house the 7/8 students created excitement on the committee. • Several emails were received with questions or suggestions about the future use of D.A. Gordon in the event it should close. Ron Andruchow addressed the issue of the future use of the D.A. Gordon building. The Board would want the property put to good use. The first step would be to get a professional appraisal. Once that is determined the property would be offered to priority groups. If those organizations were not interested, the Board would offer the property on the open market. The regulation outlined in the Education Act states that there is a 3 year time limit. During that time period the Board is responsible for maintaining the property. If the property does not sell the Board would make a recommendation to seek permission to demolish the building. <p>Comment -Ryan Jacques If the property was on the open market, market demand would determine the viable use of the property. Municipal staff would consider possible uses of the building or property. If the Board does not find a buyer, special consideration should be made for future use of the building.</p> <p>Committee members raised concerns that a 3-4 year process is too long.</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ryan Jacques indicated that he would not be voting on the recommendation of the ARC, as he was representing the Municipality of Chatham-Kent as resource personnel from the Planning Department, rather than as an elected municipal representative. A question was raised about Municipal representatives having voting privileges on the ARC committee. It was suggested that in the future it should be determined in advance if such members would be voting members. 	
<p>Riverview Catchment Area/Transportation of 7/8 Students to W.D.S.S.</p>	<p>Lorie Vandeschoot displayed a map of the Riverview boundary area showing the student distribution in the catchment area.</p> <p>Question – What is the travel time for students? A map illustrating possible ride time ranges for grade 7 & 8 students to W.D.S.S. based on current enrolment was presented by Scott Hall. Students would be on a single bus. Ride times would range from less than 20 minutes to one hour. The majority of students would have a ride time of 20-29 minutes. It was also suggested that morning and afternoon routes could be reversed in order to make ride times more equal for students (first on in the morning would be first off at night).</p> <p>Question - How does this compare to students currently at W.D.S.S.? Answer - Routes generally run 40 minutes each.</p> <p>Lisa Bicum presented a Google map scenario to illustrate the distances to W.D.S.S. from the Riverview area. A concern was raised that travel time for the north end of the catchment area is a serious issue.</p>	
<p>Organization of Grade 7/8 as a “school within a school” at W.D.S.S. with and without Riverview Student Involvement</p>	<p>With or without Riverview student involvement grade 7-8 students would be located in classrooms in the wing of W.D.S.S. currently leased by St. Clair College. They would have a separate entrance, washrooms, playground area, and bell times but would have supervised access to science labs, gym, library and cafeteria when not being used by secondary students. They would be taught by elementary qualified teachers, vice principal and support staff.</p>	

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	<p>With Riverview included in the model there would be: 157 grade 7/8 students 6 home room classrooms (with an approximate average class size of 26) 9-10 elementary teachers and a VP</p> <p>Without Riverview there would be: 119 grade 7/8 students 5 home room classrooms (with an approximate average class size of 24) 8-9 elementary teachers and a VP.</p> <p>The enrolment numbers are estimates. It is possible that numbers could increase or decrease.</p> <p>Question - If it is determined that Riverview is excluded could a parent choose to send their child to W.D.S.S. Answer – Yes, students from other schools would be welcome but it would depend on pupil spaces available in grade 7/8 classes. Transportation would not be provided.</p>	
<p>Recommendation on Inclusion of Riverview in the Proposal</p>	<p>Lisa Bicum reported that the majority of parents have asked that Riverview be excluded from the Proposal. Reasons such as travel time, family disruption and strong support for keeping grade 7/8 students at Riverview to support the future viability of the school were cited.</p> <p>It was asked what the response to the survey had been. Lisa explained that approximately 14 families responded with 10 opposing that Riverview be included. Concern was expressed that the small number of responses from over 100 families is not a representative sample.</p> <p>Question - Can the boundaries be adjusted? Answer – This could be considered in the future but is not the mandate of this committee.</p> <p>Question - Were there parent reps from Riverview that went on the tours? Feedback from parents, teachers and students was positive. There is agreement that the model worked well in Ridgetown but there is concern that it would not work for Riverview because of the distance.</p> <p>Motion to exclude Riverview from the Recommendation “Riverview to be excluded from the Recommendation and remain a JK-8 school” Motion was seconded.</p>	

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	<p>12 eligible voting members were present. Voting in support of the motion: 4 Opposed to the motion: 8 Board staff did not vote.</p> <p>Result: Riverview will be included in the Recommendation.</p>	
<p>Transportation within Wallaceburg with 7/8 at W.D.S.S. and Potential School Closure and Boundary Change</p>	<p>Transportation Within Wallaceburg with 7/8 Students at W.D.S.S. Lorie presented the guidelines of the transportation policy. Buses in Wallaceburg would pick up JK-8 students in a single run, and deliver the JK-6 students to their respective school and 7-8 students to the W.D.S.S. location. Board ride distance policy of 1.6 km remains in effect for elementary students, including grade 7/8's. Transportation would be provided for grade 7/8 students who would have to cross a waterway for safety reasons.</p> <p>Question – Since A.A. Wright students have to cross a waterway would they have the option of riding the bus? Answer – Transportation would be provided for elementary age students if the distance was over the 1.6 km, or if the student had to cross a river.</p> <p>Boundary Change for JK-6 Consolidation Available pupil spaces at receiving schools as well as transportation route planning efficiencies would be considered in the boundary realignment. Transportation would be provided for JK-6 students who would have to cross a waterway for safety reasons. Decisions regarding boundary changes would be made as part of the transition planning, in consultation with Transportation and Board staff.</p>	
<p>Questions from the Committee Members</p>	<p>Was there any consideration given to demolishing the older part of D.A. Gordon and keeping the newer part of the building?</p> <p>This would not be a financially feasible option. Tearing down the 1922 part of the building would require rebuilding the school administration office, student washrooms and the main heating and ventilation systems.</p> <p>For the 1966 remaining part, this section is nearly 50 years old and would require extensive renovation to meet current building code and accessibility standards.</p>	

Item	Discussion	Action/Responsibility
<p>Questions/Input from the Public</p>	<p>Comment - D.A. Gordon Parent A petition with 100 signatures against the closure of D.A. Gordon is being circulated. There is concern about younger children riding the bus. Personal issue with special need children at D.A. Gordon. Response - The support offered for special needs students would be the same in the proposed model. It was requested that the petition be presented to the Trustees.</p> <p>Comment - D.A. Gordon Grandparent D.A. Gordon should be restored and kept open. Busing concerns were expressed.</p> <p>Comment - Grandparent Students are too young to go to W.D.S.S. Response -7/8 students would not be part of the high school but would just be housed at the school.</p> <p>Comment - H.W. Burgess Parent I am in full support of model and think it would be really good for our children. Some parents do not fully understand the “school within a school” concept.</p> <p>Comment – Riverview Parent Riverview inclusion is not necessary. This will create hardships for Riverview families.</p> <p>Comment - D.A. Gordon Parent There have been positive changes at D.A. Gordon and I feel it shouldn’t close. Busing will be a problem for some.</p> <p>Comment - Riverview Parent I will move my children to the Catholic Board if Riverview is included in the model.</p> <p>Comment - Riverview Parent My child does not want to go to another school. The transportation and bell times will add stress to my family. I will find an alternative for my family if this goes through.</p> <p>Question – D.A. Gordon Staff Member Was it ever considered to close all 3 Wallaceburg elementary schools and build one state of the art school? Answer – That option was never considered by the ARC committee.</p> <p>Comment – St. Clair Township Councilor I am disappointed at decision to include Riverview in the proposal.</p>	

Item	Discussion	Action/Responsibility
Final Recommendation/s	<p>Recommendation A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The three elementary schools in Wallaceburg be consolidated into two schools with the closure of D.A. Gordon Public School at the end of the 2013-14 school year. 2. A.A. Wright Public School, HW Burgess Public School and Riverview Central School become JK-6 schools. D.A. Gordon JK-6 students to be reassigned to A.A. Wright or H.W. Burgess based on new boundaries to be determined during transition period. 3. Grade 7 and 8 students from Wallaceburg and Riverview elementary schools to attend W.D.S.S. as a "school within a school". 4. Implementation of the JK-6 and 7-8 at W.D.S.S. model to occur in September 2014 5. Transition planning to begin September 2013 with the involvement of parents, staff and student on a variety of planning committees. <p>A vote was taken asking who was in support of the above Recommendation A. It was requested by a committee member that this be a recorded vote. 12 eligible voting members were present.</p> <p>Voting in Support of Recommendation A: Hilary Murphy, Sheldon Parsons, Lisa Findlater, David Gough, Bob Murphy, Suzette Jacobs, Nathan Hazzard, Harvey Gamble.</p> <p>Opposed to Recommendation A: Darrell Randall, Lori Turner, Jane McGee, Lisa Bicum.</p> <p>Result: Support of Recommendation: 8 Opposed to Recommendation: 4</p> <p>Recommendation B</p> <p>That the Lambton Kent District School Board consider the viable, economic and sustainable reuse of the D.A.Gordon building and property and that while statutory obligations are followed, the Board commence discussions with the community and the Municipality respecting the opportunity that reuse of this property might offer the community. Further, that the Board give these same considerations to all future school closings in the Lambton Kent Board jurisdiction.</p> <p>Result: It was the unanimous decision of the voting members of the ARC to support Recommendation B.</p>	

Item	Discussion	Action/Responsibility
<p>Next Step – ARC Report to Board April 9</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Record of Action and ARC Report emailed to ARC Committee Members by Wednesday, April 3, 2013 2. ARC Report presented at Public Board Meeting Tuesday, April 9, 2013, Chatham Regional Education Centre, 7:00 p.m. 3. Administration Response to ARC Report at Public Board Meeting Tuesday, April 23, 2013, Sarnia Education Centre, 7:00 p.m. 4. Opportunity for public input at Public Board Meetings – May 14(Chatham) & May 28 (Sarnia) 5. Final decision by Trustees to be made at Public Board Meeting Tuesday, June 11, 2013, Chatham Regional Education Centre, 7:00 p.m. <p>Bob Murphy, Nathan Hazzard and David Gough will present the Report to the Board at the April 9, 2013 Board Meeting at the Chatham Regional Education Centre.</p>	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m. 	