

**SARNIA SOUTH SECONDARY SCHOOLS
ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE WORKING MEETING
MINUTES / RECORD OF ACTION**

Date: February 16, 2016
Location: Sarnia Education Centre

Present: Committee Members: Sean Keane, Principal Sarnia Collegiate Institute & T.S., Kara Woolridge, Parent Representative Sarnia Collegiate Institute & T.S., Mary Ethier, Parent Representative Sarnia Collegiate Institute & T.S., Lynn LeFaive, Community Representative Sarnia Collegiate Institute & T.S., Paul Wiersma, Principal St. Clair Secondary School, Keaton Jennings, Student Representative St. Clair Secondary School, Liberty Clements, Student Representative St. Clair Secondary School, Kristen Schrie, Parent Representative St. Clair Secondary School, Jacqueline Knapp, Parent Representative St. Clair Secondary School, Andy Mackay, Community Representative St. Clair Secondary School, Gary Girardi, Superintendent of Education – Capital Planning and Pupil Accommodation, Mike Gilfoyle Superintendent of Education – Program: Student Success/Secondary

Resource Personnel: Lorie Vandeschoot, Planning and Reporting Officer, Jane Kovar, Recorder

Regrets: Vicky Ware, First Nation Representative, Dan Marr, Student Representative Sarnia Collegiate Institute & T.S., Kennady Osborne, Student Representative Sarnia Collegiate Institute & T.S.

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 Call to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent Girardi welcomed everyone in attendance and stated that this is a working committee meeting. The public are respectfully asked to not interrupt and to not ask questions during the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for the committee to go through and discuss the agenda items, and the Minutes/Record of Action will be posted following this meeting. Superintendent Girardi stated that there is a box and paper available at the back of the room for people in the audience to submit questions, or they can use the website to email their questions. He reminded them to also include their name and association with this process. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent Girardi indicated that there are no microphones needed, as the room has good acoustics provided there is little noise and committee participants speak clearly all should be heard. 	
Adoption of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent Girardi stated that the agenda was posted last week. Since that time, he had been asked by a committee member and a member of the public to change the options we will be discussing. A committee member asked if we could discuss 6.3 as two separate items. A member of the public asked if we could consider SCITS for an elementary school as well. Those items have been changed to 6.3 and 6.4 respectively, with SCITS added as an elementary option along with SCSS. Superintendent Girard asked if any of the committee members were opposed to these changes? All members agreed to this agenda change. Superintendent Girardi also encouraged discussion from the committee during this working meeting. 	
Adoption of Minutes/Record of Action from January 13, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent Girardi asked if there were any concerns with the Minutes/Record of Action from January 13, 2016. It was noted that during the February 9th Board meeting, Trustees approved that the location of the April 12th, 2016 Board Meeting be changed to the Sarnia Education Centre to allow for Public delegations to take place. This change has been reflected on the Board's ARC website. 	
Committee Reflection of January 13, 2016 Meeting	<p>Superintendent Girardi asked that each committee member share a major theme or item identified from the January 13th, 2016 public meeting. He stated that comments will be recorded as part of our community discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jacqueline Knapp – her impression is that people are passionate about the auditorium at SCITS as it is the only High School with one however, the discussion was emotional and feelings based instead of fact based. Andy Mackay – there is a delicate balance to share information, the school board team did a good job presenting facts, however, we did not provide enough opportunity for the public to provide feedback. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keaton Jennings – noticed the discussion from the public was more concerned with SCITS as a historical building rather than a place for education & learning. • Liberty Clements – there is a lot of passion and heart in both schools, this committee needs to look at what is best for students • Kristen Schrie – glad that there have been more meetings made available to allow more discussion. Felt that it became very one sided, that there are two groups of students. • Mary Ethier - very information heavy on administration side. Meeting went very long and there were no handouts for public to read off of. • Kara Woolridge – there is frustration for all. It is her understanding that teachers are not supposed to be talking or discussing “against their employer” and some teachers want to be part of the process. Teachers are best resource as they know the kids, know the buildings. The teachers in the audience crowd could not voice opinion. • Lynn LeFaive – agreed emotions run high. Everyone speaks from their heart. There are important facts and figures that don’t add up. • Sean Keane - people in Sarnia care passionately about their schools. • Paul Wiersma – found the meeting to be interesting and insightful, there is much to learn. • Mike Gilfoyle - nice to hear from committee members and how passionate they are. He is looking forward to participating in the dialogue and discussion from Committee. • Gary Girardi - glad to have the opportunity to meet to provide dialogue and discussion. • Regarding Kara’s comment concerning staff not being part of the ARC process, Superintendent Girardi indicated that staff from both schools received a letter on February 8th inviting them to scheduled staff meetings to discuss or ask questions regarding the ARC process. These meetings will include Union representatives, as well as Board Administrative staff. He stated that the LKDSB Pupil Accommodation Regulation does not provide for school teaching staff to be a member of the committee. 	
<p>Secondary Program – Options by School Population</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent Gilfoyle stated over the years there has been an increasing number of conversations at both SCITS and SCSS regarding the secondary program options available to students. Three 	

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	<p>year enrollment projections at SCSS/SCITS are as follows: Current: (573)/SCITS (570); In three years approx. SCSS (579)/SCITS (510).</p> <p>With fewer numbers of students there are fewer sections of classes available to students.</p> <p>There are program benefits of having a larger student population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increased opportunity for multiple sections of the same course allowing for more flexibility for student timetables in the school. ➤ Lower student percentage of scheduling conflicts – approximately 250 conflicts is an initial number of conflicts for schools regardless of the size of the building. With a larger student population, a higher percentage of students will attain a conflict free timetable resulting in more students receiving the courses that they requested during the option sheet process. ➤ An increased breadth of senior courses would be offered to students resulting in a greater likelihood that specialized courses can be offered every year and in each semester. Currently at SCITS and SCSS, some senior (compulsory) courses “run” with low numbers at the expense of not offering other courses. ➤ Larger student populations generate more staff (in numbers) which provides more expertise and diversity in terms of qualifications and experience. This lends itself to the possibility of increased course options and co-curricular opportunities, i.e. athletics, clubs, student leadership. It also increases opportunity for teacher collaboration in subject specific and grade disciplines. Staff also have greater opportunity to fully teach in their areas of primary qualifications and expertise. ➤ Increased opportunity to offer a greater breadth of Specialized Program pathways such as Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM), i.e. Arts and Culture, Construction, Horticulture and Landscaping, Transportation, Health and Wellness, along with the associated “course bundles”. ➤ More opportunity to change pathways after the start of the school year in a larger school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal Wiersma reviewed the SCSS, Semester 2 timetable options. He stated that the blocks refer to specific time periods, and that the SCSS day starts at 8:15 a.m with a 50 minute lunch, and ends at 2:20 	

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	<p>p.m. He stated that section numbers (last two digits) indicate how many times the particular course is being offered in the school year. He indicated that students choose courses and school administration keeps track of the tallies. More students equal more courses. He noted that this past year SCSS had to cancel 12 courses, as there were courses which few students chose; i.e. Gr 11 Accounting, Gr 11 Geography, Gr 11 History. This becomes very challenging from a timetabling perspective as at times courses need to be combined (36 at SCSS this year), which becomes awkward. For example, one French class is offered as a 3 grade split (Gr 10, Gr 11, Gr 12). Principal Wiersma further stated that SCSS offers approximately 50 single section courses. A single section course is a course that only has enough students to offer one section in a school year. The more single section courses a school offers, the more chance for conflicts to occur that will not allow a student to be scheduled in the course the student selected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A question was asked about SHSM courses. Principal Wiersma stated that SCSS offers 3 SHSM Pathway programs; Construction, Horticulture and Landscaping, and Transportation. SCITS offers one SHSM program which is Arts and Culture. NCIVS offers four SHSM program; Arts and Culture, Energy, Health and Wellness, and Information and Communication. • Mary Ethier asked what the current enrolment at SCSS is. Principal Wiersma responded that it is approximately 550 students. Upon further review the enrolment at SCSS is 554 students with a Full Time Equivalent of 552. Principal Wiersma added that the official Ministry dates for enrolment funding are October 31st and March 31st and that typically there is a 3.5% decline in enrolment across the Board at 2nd semester. Superintendent Gilfoyle confirmed that this generally varies between 3.5% and 4.5%. • Principal Keane reviewed the SCITS, Semester 2 timetable options. He stated that the school has had to trim the elective courses resulting in a program of mainly compulsory subject areas (Math, Science, English, etc.). He added that options for course opportunities in smaller schools do not exist in the same extent as they would in a school with higher enrolment. Mary Ethier asked what the current 	

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	<p>enrolment is at SCITS. Principal Keane responded that it is at approximately 568 students but that he would confirm. Upon further review the enrolment at SCITS is 548 with a Full Time Equivalent of 524.75</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal Wiersma added to the discussion stating that students entering Gr 9 choose a variety of courses based on student learning style and interest, i.e. Academic, Applied or Open courses. On occasion, it is discovered that a student is struggling in a particular course type, and the ability to make appropriate timetable changes for that student mid semester is limited. Larger schools with more sections and courses have more flexibility to switch courses once the semester starts, since classes of both course types are more likely to be offered in the same period. • Principal Wiersma indicated that SCSS only had 8 students request grade 12 physics for this year. This made it difficult to justify offering the course at the expense of other courses that were requested by many more students. Although the physics course was offered through eLearning, it was recognized that this format doesn't meet the needs of all students and parents. • Lynn LeFaive asked if through eLearning could SCITS also provide the same course. Principal Keane indicated that SCITS does have students participate in eLearning courses. Students can register for eLearning courses across the Board and across the province. • Jacqueline Knapp asked for further clarification regarding the eLearning structure. Students can access an eLearning course at different times throughout the day. There is a minimal attendance requirement for the student to log in at least once a week, however students will find that daily log in and participation is necessary for increased opportunities for success. The LKDSB is a member of an eLearning consortium with other school boards in Ontario which allows our Board more breadth of courses offerings. The LKDSB offers extra spaces to our consortium partners and in return our students get access to a similar number of spaces in eLearning courses that are run by our consortium partners. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberty Clements commented that with fewer elective courses available some students have less flexibility and balance, and therefore individual timetables become very “heavy loaded” with more difficult and demanding subjects in a particular semester (ie. Math, Science, English). • Superintendent Gilfoyle upon review of the NCIVS timetable, stated that even schools with larger enrolments have split/combined courses. However, some of these split/combined courses are generated to create increased opportunities to students, as opposed to created out of necessity to offer an option to students. For example, by combining the grade 12 college and university foods courses, Northern is able to offer this class two times this semester. Also the more staff school have, the greater the possibility that teachers are teaching more exclusively in their area(s) of qualification/expertise. For example, a teacher who is qualified in a technological area may have 6 classes of technology in a larger school but only 3 such classes in a smaller school, and would therefore have to teach outside of their area of primary expertise. It should be noted that any teacher can teach any course at the grade 9 or 10 level with Principal approval regardless of qualifications. • Superintendent Girardi stated that timetables are created by a school process with input from Student Services, Special Education, Curriculum Leaders and our feeder schools. The Principal leads this collaborative process. A school’s allotment of staff is determined in partnership with the Human Resource department and in keeping with the collective agreement with OSSTF. 	
<p>Presentation and Examination of School Accommodation Options</p>	<p>Superintendent Girardi led the presentation and examination of School Accommodation Options.</p> <p><u>6.1 Status quo</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lynn LeFaive asked for clarification regarding the on-going financial implications of unfunded pupil spaces and how this impacts students across the district and not just SCSS and SCITS? Superintendent 	

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	<p>Girardi stated that unfunded pupil spaces and the loss of top up dollars will force the LKDSB to make up that loss of funding by finding cuts elsewhere, including program and enhanced supports for students and maintaining our buildings across the board. For example, funding cuts could possibly result in a decrease in Educational Assistants, Child and Youth Workers or Building Maintenance projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal Wiersma clarified why co-curricular program for students remains unchanged is a Con item. Smaller schools find it challenging to offer school sport teams. SCSS no longer has hockey or curling teams and they can no longer offer both JR and SR teams in each team sport. Principal Keane stated that SCITS has not been able to offer SR girls basketball, or a football team. The boys basketball team is required to travel to Blenheim in order to compete, so there is distance which is an additional travel cost for students and parents. The additional travel time also provides challenges for students who have part-time employment. • Lynn LeFaive suggested that the five transite chairs at SCSS be removed from the Cons list, as this work has already been completed. Committee members agreed. • Kara Woolridge asked about the asbestos information being made available for the committee. Superintendent Girardi indicated he will bring the Board Health & Safety Officer Wendy Pitvor, and 3rd party consultants, to discuss the actual reports written, to the next working meeting. Jacqueline Knapp asked if they could provide available dollar amounts for work to be done at both sites. Superintendent Girardi will provide more specific dollar costs regarding asbestos work planned for both buildings to the next working meeting. • Kara Woolridge asked if there is an asbestos report available for the public to review. Superintendent Girardi stated that safety for students is paramount. A member of the public can contact a school Principal to make arrangements to meet and discuss the most recent asbestos report written by our third party consultant. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lynn LeFaive commented that if asbestos is undisturbed there is no concern for public safety. • Mary Ethier asked about SCITS flooding concerns. Principal Keane indicated that the municipality has excavated in the past, however, flooding issues continue to be an ongoing concern at SCITS. Superintendent Girardi will have Wendy Pitvor provide a summary of the flooding issues/concerns to the next working meeting and Superintendent McKay will provide an estimate of the cost from Building services. Lynn LeFaive commented that flooding issues are common in the South end area. • A question was asked regarding the SCITS pool ventilation issues. An estimate to price pool ventilation/dehumidification will be provided at the next working meeting. • Superintendent Girardi will bring estimated costs concerning an accommodation and accessibility report on both buildings to the next working meeting. • Questions were asked regarding the 5 year capital plan for both sites. This will be addressed at the next working meeting by the Business Superintendent. <p><u>6.2 SCSS 7-12 School and SCITS 7-12 School</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion occurred regarding this option still resulting in 500+ unused pupil spaces. Shifting the elementary population from area feeder schools would not benefit the secondary program concerns, and would result in additional elementary school closures. • Superintendent Gilfoyle indicated that our Board offers 3 full-service schools which provide a breadth of special education programs and services available to exceptional secondary students (AMSS, WDSS, JMSS). AMSS offers a range of programs and services to meet the needs of exceptional learners, including and beyond the Alternative Learning and Life Skills Program. Students from all schools across Sarnia Lambton may be eligible to attend AMSS. As with all 	<p>Wendy Pitvor and Supt McKay (flooding issues)</p> <p>Supt McKay (Pool ventilation/dehumidification)</p> <p>Supt McKay (Estimated costs)</p> <p>Supt McKay (Clarification Capital plans)</p>

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	<p>exceptional learners, program placements are subject to parent permission. The delivery of special education supports in the LKDSB is annually reviewed by the Special Education Advisory Committee.</p> <p><u>6.3 Consolidation at SCIT/SCSS - Consolidate Elementary Schools at either site</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A committee member asked if the PSI grant would be available for either school location? Superintendent Girardi will obtain clarification on the PSI grant for the committee from Kent Orr (CLASS). • Mary Ethier asked for clarification between top up funding and enhanced top up funding? Superintendent Girardi confirmed that the loss of top-up funding in the next three years for both schools combined will be \$ 255K annually. Clarification on the definition will be provided at the next working meeting. • A committee member asked if the Ministry takes into account the age of a school. Superintendent Girardi commented that the Ministry does not choose which schools we close, however, they are advising the LKDSB to close schools. • Andy Mackay stated that by closing several feeder schools to save two high schools, this would create a “backlash” or outcry from the community. While one of the future proposed ARC phase plans is to close elementary schools, this particular Option would result in additional elementary school closures which would impact a lot of families from this community. • Keaton Jennings and Liberty Clements both commented that it would be significantly more difficult to close multiple elementary schools as opposed to one secondary school. <p><u>6.4 Consolidation at SCITS – Closure of SCSS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent Girardi confirmed that the 17M renovation/capital costs at SCITS does not include addressing the asbestos issues. 	<p>Supt Girardi (Kent Orr, PSI grant clarification)</p> <p>Supt McKay (clarification)</p> <p>Supt McKay (confirmation)</p>

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	<p>the SCITS website as per the SCSS website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristen Schrie inquired about attaining local Community Partnerships i.e. Renewable Energy, to strengthen our grant application to become more attractive and successful. How does that weigh in terms of the Ministry? Superintendent Girardi stated that Community Partnerships are looked at favourably by the Ministry and he will consult with Superintendent McKay to provide feedback at the next working meeting on how that would affect an application to the Ministry. 	<p>Supt McKay (Community Partners)</p>
<p>Questions / Future Discussions</p>	<p>There was discussion among the committee members regarding future consideration and/or discussion of Sarnia South Secondary ARC Options 6.1 through 6.6.</p> <p><u>6.1 Status quo</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No committee members desired further discussion on this option at the next working meeting. There was consensus to remove this option from the table. <p><u>6.2 SCSS 7-12 School and SCITS 7-12 School</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No committee members desired further discussion on this option at the next working meeting. There was consensus to remove this option from the table. <p><u>6.3 Consolidation at SCIT/SCSS - Consolidate Elementary Schools at either site</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No committee members desired further discussion on this option at the next working meeting. There was consensus to remove this option from the table <p><u>6.4 Consolidation at SCITS – Closure of SCSS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some committee members desired further discussion on this option at the next working meeting. There was no agreement to remove this option from the table. 	

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	<p><u>6.5 Closure of Additional Sarnia Secondary School(s) and Application for New School</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No committee members desired further discussion on this option at the next working meeting. There was consensus to remove this option from the table <p><u>6.6 LKDSB Initial Staff Report Recommendation – Consolidation at SCSS and Closure of SCITS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some committee members desired further discussion on this option at the next working meeting. There was no agreement to remove this option from the table. <p>Superintendent Girardi stated that if any additional ARC options/proposals are provided, he will bring them back to the committee for discussion and/or consideration at the next working meeting.</p> <p>Superintendent Gilfoyle reviewed the action items for the next working meeting as indicated in this ROA.</p> <p>Superintendent Girardi indicated that in response to the committee suggestions to allow for more community input, the March 8th public ARC meeting will focus on the recording of input and questions from the public.</p>	<p>Documents to be posted on website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ROA - Pros/Cons Options - Timetable course options - Q & A (Written questions placed in public box during working ARC meeting)
<p>Future Meetings:</p>	<p>Sarnia South Secondary Schools ARC Public Meeting – March 8, 2016 @ 6:30 p.m. at SCITS.</p> <p>Sarnia South Secondary Schools ARC Working Meeting – March 21, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m. at the Sarnia Education Centre.</p>	
<p>Written Questions placed in Public box during Working Arc Meeting</p>	<p>Superintendent Girardi indicated that written questions from the Public attending this ARC working meeting will be posted with responses where applicable, on the LKDSB website: www.lkdsb.net</p>	

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Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Superintendent Girardi thanked the committee members for attending, and for their participation and discussion. He noted that there were no further questions from the committee and adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.	