

**PUBLIC MEETING #1 FOR THE WYOMING AREA SCHOOLS
PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE
MINUTES/RECORD OF ACTION**

Date: January 19, 2016

Location: Gymnasium, Wyoming Public School, 606 Thames Street, Wyoming

Present: Committee Members: Gary Girardi, Superintendent of Education – Capital Planning and Pupil Accommodation, Taf Lounsbury Superintendent of Education – Program: Early Years/Elementary, Deb Bramham, Principal, Crystal Hordyk, Parent Representative, South Plympton School Campus, Jen Crummer, Parent Representative, Linda Reid, Community Representative, Kaylee Clarke, Student Representative, Wyoming School Campus, Emma Gibson, Student Representative, Wyoming School Campus, Jodi Campbell, Parent Representative, Wyoming School Campus, Chad Brown, Vice Principal, South Plympton School Campus

Resource Personnel: Lorie Vandeschoot, Planning and Reporting Officer, Sandi Vennettilli, Recorder, Brian McKay, Superintendent of Education-Finance, Kent Orr, Manger of Transportation, Scott Hall, Transportation Analyst

Regrets:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent Gary Girardi welcomed the Committee and introduced Trustee Jane Bryce, Trustee Dave Douglas and Student Trustee Cole Anderson. Trustee Shannon Sasseville was in attendance but arrived after introductions. He thanked the public in attendance and welcomed questions from the public at the end of the committee meeting. • Committee members representing the Wyoming area schools and Board resource staff introduced themselves. 	
ARC Mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent Taf Lounsbury reviewed the Mandate for the Accommodation Review Committee. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) represents the schools under review and acts as the official conduit for information shared between the school board and the school communities. <p>The ARC may comment on the Initial Staff Report and may, throughout the pupil accommodation review process, seek clarification of the Initial Staff Report. The ARC may provide other accommodation options other than those included in the Initial Staff Report; however, it must include supporting rationale for any such option.</p>	
Overview of Agenda/Timelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Public meetings have been posted on the Board website. • Meeting times will be from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. It was agreed to extend the time if needed. • The second and final Public Meeting will take place at South Plympton PS on March 23, 2016. • The Final Staff Report will be presented at the Board meeting in Chatham on April 12, 2016. • Delegations may present at the Board meeting in Sarnia on April 26, 2016. If people wish to present alternative plans, they will be limited to five minutes during the Public session of the meeting and must submit their presentation to ARC@lkdsb.net or in hard copy in order for information to be posted to the public. Any individual or delegation wishing to make a presentation to the Board should contact Trish Johnston, Executive Assistant and Communications Officer at Trish.Johnston@lkdsb.net • Vote of Trustees at the Board meeting in Chatham on May 10, 2016. 	
Review of ARC Orientation Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of the Minutes/Record of Action was provided for the committee to review. • Responsibilities of the ARC committee were reviewed. • Information in regards to the ARC will be posted on the Board Website at www.lkdsb.net under Accommodation Review Committee (ARC). 	

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<p>Presentation of Initial Staff Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Presentation is located on the Board website. • The Initial Staff Report considers 2 factors: enrolment and finance. The Ministry of Education has changed the grant funding process to Boards in Ontario. School Boards are responsible for managing their school capital assets in an effective manner. • Superintendent Gary Girardi spoke to demographics and declining enrolment. Enrolment in the LKDSB has continued to decline over the past decade. Birth rates in the LKDSB catchment areas have declined. Projected enrolment shows a continued decline. • Superintendent Brian McKay spoke to the Financial Factors. The Ministry of Education has revised its funding model which is being phased in over a three year period. The LKDSB is experiencing changes in several funding lines beginning with the 2015-2016 budget year. It is no longer fiscally sustainable to continue to fund empty pupil spaces in our schools. The total Grant Reduction for the 2015-2016 school year is \$2,008,458. • Superintendent Gary Girardi spoke to the changes in the pupil accommodation process. The role of the ARC committee was reviewed. • The recommendation in the Initial Staff Report of November 24, 2015 was to consolidate South Plympton Public School and Wyoming Public School into one school at the Wyoming Public School site by September 2016. This would increase operational efficiency and reduce the number of transitions for students. The estimated annual savings would be \$150,000/year. • Kent Orr provided an overview of current South Plympton and Wyoming transportation as well as transportation for the proposed consolidation. This presentation is available on the LKDSB website. 	

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Presentation of School Information Profiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The School Information Profiles are available on the Board website. Principal Deb Bramham presented the School Information Profile for Wyoming Public School and South Plympton Public School. 	
Input/Questions From the Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following questions from the orientation meeting were reviewed: Question: Can you give us an overview about what the school will look like? Answer: The application to receive funds must have a yes vote from the Trustees. We would then apply for funding. If that moves forward we would look at drawings but we do not have anything specific at this point. Question: Why Wyoming? Answer: It is a larger school and the needs of the building are lower. Question: What are the plans for lighting if the gymnasium is converted to classrooms? Answer: We have had experience converting gymnasiums. Naahii Ridge is a good example. We could visit the site or we could present pictures of the renovations at a meeting. Question – Busing will be an issue. Will routes be adjusted? Agreed that the railway tracks are a concern. Transportation will speak to bussing at the Public meeting. <p>Questions from the January 19th meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Question: Will ALLP classes be moved to portables? Answer: The recommendation is not to move the ALLP class. Are the portables temporary until gym is renovated? Answer: Yes 	<p>Pictures of gym renovations will be posted on the website.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question: What are the plans for gym space in the interim? Answer: If the Trustees vote in favour of the consolidation, we would have to discuss the timeline. We do believe we can plan around that. We would look to have the new gym built before converting the current gymnasium to classrooms. • Question: Are the costs of the capital projects for South Plympton only if the school did not consolidate? Would that money be freed up if the schools consolidated? Answer: Yes. • Question: Would the Board sell the building? Answer: That is outside of the ARC process. • Question: We won't know the decision until May 10. We then apply for funding. The work would not be completed by September. We would definitely have portables. We are going to lose more green space. Is that going to allow for play equipment? Answer: We believe there would be enough space. The goal is to have drawings available for the second meeting. • Question: How do we get students out of portables if funding does not come in? Answer: The LKDSB believes that we have a strong business case. If funding from the Ministry is not available, then the capital focus will be on the renewal and refurbishment of the existing Wyoming Public School. We would discuss changes to the current floor plan with our architects to accommodate students. • Question: Will there be staff layoffs? Answer: It will be a process. We are in discussions with the respective Unions. 	<p>Provide mock up drawing for addition of gym.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="491 212 1566 342"> <p>• Question: Can you walk us through a gym renovation? Answer: Three of the walls are not exterior but one wall could be windows. In addition, the front hall could be opened to the hallway and the high gym walls could have exterior windows as well.</p> <li data-bbox="491 415 1539 613"> <p>• Question: Is the funding contingent on closing the door? Can we move after the funding is approved? Answer: Trustees have to vote on the consolidation before we can apply for funding. We believe our application meets Ministry requirements to be successful. A recommendation for the timeline will be taken under consideration for the completion of the Final Staff Report.</p> <li data-bbox="491 654 1562 784"> <p>• Question: Has anyone received the funding but stretched out the date for consolidation? Answer: A change in the timeline would have to be included in the Final Staff Report.</p> <li data-bbox="491 824 1507 1055"> <p>• Question: How will students cope in a construction zone? Answer: Student safety is always our concern. We have ongoing projects in many schools where construction takes place during the school day with students present. There is a process in place to determine if there are any unsafe elements during construction. If the process determined there were any unsafe elements we would not move forward while students and staff were in the building.</p> <li data-bbox="491 1096 1514 1226"> <p>• Question: Wyoming is growing. What if we get more students and we are already at a maximum? Answer: At present there are no significant increases to population in County projections.</p> <li data-bbox="491 1266 1556 1456"> <p>• Question: Last year there was a full grade one class. This year after four days there was a one/ two split because of additional students. What if after five years you need more classrooms? Answer: If there is a drastic change in population we would have to review. We have to do the best we can with the predictions we have. There will be flexibility.</p> 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Question: Would Best Start take one of the current rooms? Answer: We would have to accommodate them and would welcome them if they choose to move to Wyoming P.S. 	
<p>Questions from the Public</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Question: What about increased traffic congestion? It is already a busy area. How will that be handled? Answer: Safe pathways and the design for the parking area would be addressed in the consolidation plans. Question: Will there be support for parents walking children to school? Answer: It would be up to the school council to facilitate a walking school bus. Question: What about washrooms for students in portables? Answer: We would try to minimize the time in portables. There are ways to manage that and still support the learning process. Question: How will this site be ready for FDK by September? Answer: Should the recommendation be approved, the necessary accommodations would have to be made to provide a welcoming environment for the kindergarten students. Question: What about parking? Answer: The lot line could be extended. There are a number of opportunities to provide increased parking. If the consolidation is approved by Trustees, a Transition Committee would be established and could make recommendations. Question/Comment: I have a grave concern that process is going too quickly. The cost is not that high. We have time to prepare Wyoming. Allow us a year to prepare for consolidation. Can you take this suggestion to the Board? Answer: All information will be provided and reflected upon before the Final Staff Report. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="491 212 1545 305"> <p>• Question: Some rooms are being used for offices and supplies. Can we put the supplies in the portables and use those rooms for students? Answer: If there are options for this we would consider them.</p> <li data-bbox="491 347 1556 475"> <p>• Question: How would you compensate for reverberation in the renovated gymnasium? Answer: The new rooms are more akin to a classroom. The noise level would be addressed.</p> <li data-bbox="491 518 1587 646"> <p>• Comment: There seems to be a lot of uncertainty. We would like a blueprint. Answer: We share the concern over the Ministry of Education funding not being available until a vote has taken place but funding and enrolment in the LKDSB is declining.</p> <li data-bbox="491 688 1398 751"> <p>• Question: Are you looking at multiple washrooms? Answer: Yes, we want to make sure there is a viable plan in place.</p> <li data-bbox="491 794 1556 1122"> <p>• Question: Is there an equation used for green space? Answer: The architect will need to calculate all the percentages of coverage of any existing and new buildings and asphalt for site plan control application during construction document phase. There are other site factors that may need to be considered such as storm water retention and drainage. This will need to be designed by a civil consultant, also during construction document phase. According to Zoning By-law 97 for Plympton-Wyoming, the minimum open or landscaped space for Wyoming PS is 10% of lot area. The maximum building coverage is 50% of lot area.</p> <p>Wyoming lot = 6.004 acres (261, 534 sq. ft.) Min open space 10% = 26, 153.4 sq. ft. Max building coverage 50% = 130, 767 sq. ft. Current Wyoming building area = 21, 141 sq. ft. (8% of lot area) Current Wyoming asphalt / concrete area (approx.) = 40, 178 sq. ft. (15% of lot area) Current open space = 200, 215 sq. ft. (77%) For comparison, a regulation CFL field is 87, 750 sq. ft.</p> 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="491 212 1507 342"> <p>• Question: If funding does not go through is there any way we can be guaranteed removal of portables? Answer: We cannot offer guarantees. We believe we have a good plan but we cannot guarantee a timeline for removal.</p> <li data-bbox="491 383 1507 513"> <p>• Question: Can we bring the new playground equipment from South Plympton? Answer: We would have to inspect the condition of the equipment but that could be a possibility.</p> <li data-bbox="491 553 1577 1016"> <p>• Question/Comments: Where do you get the idea South Plympton is a rundown school? Wyoming is not the proper school to use. It has a smaller school yard. The school is a maze. Children go uptown at lunch time. There is speeding on the main street. The children would be safer at South Plympton P.S. Railway crossing times are sometime 20 minutes. We should bus all students to South Plympton. There would be no need for portables. South Plympton was built for 244 children. A subdivision has been approved north of the railroad tracks. South Plympton is a better built school. If put up for sale Wyoming Public School would sell faster. Answer: The decision rested on Ministry FCI and size. If we moved students to South Plympton Public School it could not accommodate the capacity.</p> <li data-bbox="491 1057 1541 1219"> <p>• Comment: You cannot rely on statistics just because it is a rural school. Ilderton had to use portables because of an unexpected rise in enrolment. A subdivision could increase enrolment. It may boom down the road. Answer: The LKDSB cannot plan for a rise in enrolment that is not projected.</p> <li data-bbox="491 1260 1556 1390"> <p>• Question: I have a concern about the washrooms. Will there be changes made in each class to meet student needs before September? Answer: The Transition Committee would address these issues. There would be staff representation on the committee.</p> 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Question/Comment: This is a classic case of the cart before the horse. How can you not have a plan in place to present first before moving the children? What is the HVAC in portables? What about washrooms? What emergency systems are in place for portables? Bussing issues are not cut and dry. I am very frustrated with the process. Answer: Portables are under the same requirements as the school building. They have the same standards This is not our first choice. It is hoped that they would be a short term solution.</p> <p>• Question: I don't believe it is more cost effective to use portables at Wyoming P.S. Operating costs are low at South Plympton P.S. Won't it be more costly to install portables than to leave the students at South Plympton P.S.? Answer: We would rent the portables therefore costs would be lower. This question relates to the timeline question asked earlier and will be taken under consideration.</p> <p>• Question – Where would the Best Start and day care centre be? Answer: There is another application that the LKDSB can make for child care space. The LKDSB will meet with the daycare providers to confirm their intention to relocate their program to Wyoming Public School.</p> <p>• Question: Where can we ask further questions? Questions can be emailed to arc@lkdsb.net</p> <p>• Question: What happens if you do not receive any funding? What is contingency plan? Answer: If funding from the Ministry is not available, then the capital focus will be on the renewal and refurbishment of the existing Wyoming Public School. We would work with the funding we have. We would engage the architect to come up with a solution to accommodate all students and create a successful learning environment.</p> 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="491 212 1493 310"> <p>• Question: When do you know if we get funding? The application is due by July. It is expected that the Ministry would let us know by October 2016.</p> <li data-bbox="491 347 1577 548"> <p>• Question: In the past, Queen Elizabeth Petrolia had changes to the school year due to construction. Is there a way to provide a basic timeline of how this will play out? We need to make child care arrangements if you are going to change the first and last day of school. Answer: We have not had a discussion to change the start or end time of the school year for Wyoming Public School.</p> <li data-bbox="491 586 1507 683"> <p>• Question: Would the school close with no plan? Wyoming Public has space to accommodate the students. A plan would be shared.</p> <li data-bbox="491 721 1587 818"> <p>• Comment: Since we are the school closing there should be a day set aside for an open house to welcome South Plympton students. Answer: Should this occur, it would be referred to the Transition Committee.</p> 	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="491 927 1436 959"> <p>• March 23, 2016 at South Plympton Public School from 6:30-8:30 p.m.</p> 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="491 1027 1003 1060"> <p>• The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.</p> 	