



Pupil Accommodation Review

**Special Education Consultation Meeting
 Victoria Park Training Centre, Jim McCuaig Education Centre
 Monday, May 9, 2016**

Chair: Colleen Kappel, Superintendent of Education

Resource Staff: David Wright, Superintendent of Business
 Lori Carson, Special Education Officer
 Heather Harris, Capital Planning Officer
 Bruce Nugent, Communications Officer

Present: Jason Biloski, Tereza Biloski, Gareth Bosch, Lisa Bosch, Christine Christianson, Kimberlee Culbert, Ryan Drury, Tammy Fedoruk, Angela Hill, Andrew Hotrum, Brad Kingston, Jennifer Kreczmer, Richard Lundstrom, Melody Lundstrom, Cindy Macchi, Kelly Matyasovsky, Don Porter, Heidi Porter, Virginia Steele

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Welcome and Introductions	<p>Colleen Kappel, Superintendent of Education, the Chair of the Meeting, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves. The Chair addressed housekeeping items and indicated that the meeting would go no longer than 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>The Chair advised the meeting is to gather feedback from special education parents/guardians about program needs and to provide some information on transition planning.</p> <p>The minutes will be posted on the website.</p>	

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Presentation	<p>The Chair used a Power Point presentation to provide attendees with information on the School Renewal Plan, the Accommodation Review Committees and the timelines for the process.</p> <p>Q: Richard Lundstrom inquired if the board knew that enrolment was going down why would the board have built a new highschool in Port Arthur?</p> <p>A: The Chair advised that at the time, (almost 10 years ago) it was the right thing to do. Right now the board is looking at projections going forward.</p> <p>Q: Tereza Biloski asked if there is funding to build a new elementary school?</p> <p>A: The Chair responded that the Ministry is providing funding provincially to support consolidation of schools. If and when the Trustees approve a consolidation plan, a business case would be put together to fund consolidation of schools. Recently there was a business plan approved to consolidate Kingsway Park and Hyde Park Public Schools and was approved by the Ministry in the amount of \$6 million.</p> <p>Q: Cindy Macchi inquired if is there a dollar value between Option 1 and Option 2?</p> <p>A: David Wright, Superintendent of Business responded that the information is on the website. The two options are approximately \$1.5 million apart on paper. It is more expensive to add additions than to renovate schools, but there are other costs involved as well.</p> <p>Q: Richard Lundstrom inquired which is more expensive?</p> <p>A: David Wright responded that for capital costs, additions are more expensive than renovations. However, not just capital costs are taken into consideration.</p>	

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	<p>Q: Richard Lundstrom inquired how members are determined for the Accommodation Review Committee and how parents are chosen to be a member on the ARC?</p> <p>A: Heather Harris responded that the Pupil Accommodation Review policy states who is on the committee. For School Council reps, the principal chooses the staff member and the student, and for the School Council members, the School Council chooses who is the parent representative on the ARC.</p> <p>A: The Chair indicated that the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) ARC members present will bring information back to SEAC.</p>	
Transition Planning	<p>Lori Carson, Special Education Officer, provided information about Transition Planning. Administration does not know what will happen until the Trustees make a final decision in October 2016. At present, for secondary students, there is a special needs program at Hammarskjold and a Pre Work Placement program at Superior. For elementary students there is a special needs program at Vance Chapman. Once the decision is made, programs will move as appropriate. Lori Carson indicated that the board has transitioned programs in the past. An example provided was the Multi Needs program move from Woodcrest to Algonquin. Colleen Kappel, Superintendent of Education, responsible for special education, met with each family individually regarding the transition. Transition planning of students will take place with on-going consultation with staff as they understand the students, and on-going consultation with parents/guardians.</p> <p>Q: Tereza Biloski inquired about the previous special education program moves; were the schools already set up with the specific requirements (i.e. OT, PT, sensory rooms)? Were the spaces created before the plan for transition?</p> <p>A: The Chair responded that as part of the transition process, administration met with the program staff to determine the needs of the students and then the board worked over the summer to</p>	

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	<p>create the classroom for the students.</p> <p>Q: Tereza Biloski expressed concerns about transitioning students to schools that are not set up for the students and that after the summer the students are on a bus and going to a new school.</p> <p>A: The Chair responded that the decision will be made in October 2016. Immediately following, a transition committee will be established and almost an entire school year will be available to develop a transition plan for students.</p> <p>Q: Tereza Biloski expressed concerns that special needs students will be placed into a new school without an opportunity to visit and see their new school and classroom as the spaces won't be ready and completed until the beginning of the school year.</p> <p>A: Lori Carson responded that the transition plan will depend on the child. What will happen to transition a student is very individual and the transition plan will be built into the student's IEP. Planning will begin in October 2016. There will likely be opportunities for students to visit the new school/classroom space. The Chair indicated that for the multi-needs program move to Algonquin the school wasn't ready until after the summer. Many items were taken into consideration when the new site was chosen. Lori Carson indicated that some parents/guardians bring their child to their new school during the summer months to show them where they will be attending.</p> <p>Q: Christine Christianson expressed concerns about confusing her child with bringing him to a new school over the summer.</p> <p>A: Lori Carson agreed that some students cannot start transitioning early.</p> <p>Q: Melody Lundstrom expressed concerns regarding the benefit of a coop placement out of Superior vs Hammarskjold as the students at Superior can't walk to their coop places so easily in the winter. The board will incur extra transportation costs to ensure the</p>	

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	<p>students arrive at their placement sites on time. If students can't get to their placements on their own, that isn't realistic in the real world. Melody Lundstrom suggested that this isn't a level playing field. What are the pros for Superior?</p> <p>A: The Chair indicated that the meeting is not about choosing one school over another and acknowledged that the concerns that Melody Lundstrom has expressed are regarding the coop program and that it is important to have access to coop placements in close proximity to the school. The Chair indicated that there are also parents/guardians present who are from the elementary schools and that we have to provide an opportunity for them to speak as well.</p> <p>Q: Brad Kingston inquired how big are the two secondary schools going to be?</p> <p>A: The Chair responded that the schools will have enrolment of approximately 1300 students to begin with, reducing to 1200 over time when things level out. The Chair indicated that schools are difficult to staff with low student numbers and it is difficult to provide the breadth of programming that students require when the student population is small.</p> <p>Q: Brad Kingston inquired if the elementary schools will be relatively small as well?</p> <p>A: The Chair responded that there will be some larger and smaller elementary schools.</p> <p>Q: Melody Lundstrom inquired what is the current population of Superior and Hammarskjold and what is the maximum currently of each school? What are the number of students that each school can hold right now without any additions?</p> <p>A: Heather Harris responded that the current maximum capacity of Superior is approximately 950 students and the current maximum capacity of Hammarskjold is approximately 1300 students.</p>	

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	<p>Q: Christine Christianson inquired why the board didn't build a bigger school to begin with when Superior was built?</p> <p>A: Heather Harris responded that the Ministry takes a look at the numbers and allows the board to build a school for the numbers that are required. The ministry would not provide funding to build a school over capacity. Mr. Lundstrom had inquired earlier why would we build a smaller school if we knew what the enrolment would be? The board has to take a look at different circumstances and changing circumstances. At the time that Superior was built, there was a push from the government to keep schools open. Things have now changed, financial realities have now changed. It was the best decision at the time with the information and the funding that was available.</p> <p>Q: Christine Christianson suggested instead of building a new school why didn't the board choose to keep Lakeview or Selkirk open instead of giving them to the catholic board?</p> <p>A: David Wright responded that the board had no choice with Selkirk or Lakeview as catholic education was rolling out to the secondary panel and the board was obligated to give secondary schools to the catholic board.</p> <p>The Chair requested that tables work in small groups to determine themes and feedback on opportunities and challenges. Thirty minutes was provided.</p>	

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Programming for Students	Priorities by Tables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety; • Extremely stressful, extra support staff because of children with anxiety; • Safety: location of school, classroom; • Safety – kids going from smaller schools to larger schools; • Support consistency - staff with students for the entire year not being moved around. Need consistency for supply staff as well; • Consistency with SSPs and teachers and extra support with transitioning and coop; and • Timelines for the construction and renovations. 	
Closing Comments	<p>The Chair indicated that additional feedback can be provided by sending an email to Lori Carson or Colleen Kappel.</p> <p>Bruce Nugent also indicated that questions can also be provided to renewal@lakeheadschoools.ca and that responses to all questions will be posted on the FAQ page on the board website.</p> <p>The Chair thanked everyone for participating and providing feedback.</p>	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.	