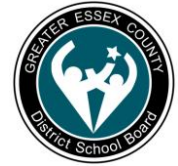


Greater Essex County District School Board PROGRAM AND ACCOMMODATION REVIEW FORSTER FAMILY AND CENTURY SCHOOLS

Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.

Report of a committee meeting held in the staff room at Brock School



Attendance: Dave Garlick, Karen Albu, Petrina Baylis, Forster; Kim Rocheleau, Cindy Mitchell, Century; Patti Oshar, Michelle Landry, Danielle Yaholnitsky, Benson; Chris Inverarity, Mark Paterson, Leonard Bega, Sarah Gall, Brock; Debra Laforet (arrived late), Cindy Theriault, Jamie de l'Eveille, Taylor; Clayton Callow, Nancy Bruce, Robin Fletcher, Dougall; Ron Brown, Michelle Dereniowski, Lisa Cunningham, Marlborough; MaryAnne Cuderman, community representative; John Howitt, Area Superintendent

Regrets: Kristie McKim

Absence: Lisa Bastien, Cindy Wark, Amina Abdi, Fahema Siki, Cindy Theriault, Christine van Lare

Facilitator: Terry Lyons

Recorder: Lynne Hornby

THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCOMMODATIONS CONDUCTS A PARC STUDY OF THE FORSTER FAMILY OF SCHOOLS AND INCLUDE CENTURY DUE TO ITS GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION TO:

- i. **ADDRESS CAPACITY ISSUES AND AGING INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS WITHIN THE FORSTER FAMILY OF SCHOOLS**
- ii. **CONTINUE OUR INVESTIGATION FOR A PERMANENT FRENCH IMMERSION SITE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH BOARD DIRECTION FROM THE SOUTH WINDSOR PARC.**

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Superintendent Lyons thanking everyone for their attendance and Principal Inverarity for hosting the meeting.

Introductions were made. It was noted that Community Representative Evelyn McLean has advised that she will not be able to continue in the process.

2. Election of Chairperson

In the absence of an elected Chairperson, Superintendent Lyons acted at pro-tem Chairperson.

A discussion took place surrounding Taylor and Benson remaining in the PARC, given the fact that they completed the PARC process in June of 2011, when trustees determined that Benson School be closed and upon Ministry of Education approval, the students would be relocated to the Taylor school site. Superintendent Lyons added that at this time, a template for design for a new school has been submitted and subsequently approved by the Ministry of Education. This new school is being constructed specifically to accommodate the populations of only Benson and Taylor schools.

It was further felt by the committee that Dougall School could probably not assist in a solution to the mandate, given the fact that the school is currently at 92% capacity and expected to grow into the future.

The committee decided to take a ballot. Superintendent Howitt and Mrs. Mitchell acted as scrutineers.

The first ballot was to determine whether Benson remained in the PARC. The results were 7-3 against and so Benson is removed.

The second ballot determined whether Dougall would remain in the PARC. The results were 8-2 against and so Dougall will resign from the process.

The third ballot was to determine Taylor's participation in the PARC. The results were a tie; 5-5 and as there was a pro-tem Chair who did not have voting rights, a re-vote was taken.

There was further discussion on the topic. A parent felt that as Taylor and Benson's solution has already been determined by trustees, the committee should be voting for them as a "package", a view that was shared by several members. This parent felt it was inappropriate to be splitting the two schools. Another parent shared views as to why Taylor should continue at the table.

The Superintendent then clarified that members must separate themselves from their school, child, etc as a committee member and look at what is most viable for this community and the system. We are interested as a board in finding the best solution for the system. Committee members must not be biased toward their own school and cannot focus on their individual student and school. By the end of the process it will be quite apparent that it is important that all students are treated equally. He went on to explain that any school not participating at the committee table will have plenty of opportunity to provide input, by attending community meetings, forwarding emails to the general PARC mailbox etc. These are the same opportunities available to any member of the general public.

A member wondered if Benson and Taylor grade 8 parents might be concerned about what will happen to Century and Forster and their respective student's secondary school. Superintendent Lyons clarified that no decisions will be implemented before Sept 2013, so this year's grade 8 students will not be impacted.

As the Committee continues to meet, recommendations will be formulated which will be circulated to every student when invitations to public meetings are circulated. The recommendations of the Benson-Taylor PARC committee remained fairly consistent but there were changes made to the South Windsor PARC committees' recommendations, due to public input received. The committee's responsibility is to listen to the public input received. As has been past practice, principals will be notified of any decision impacted as part of the PARC, and students receive letters to go home. Information is posted regularly on the PARC link on the boards' website at www.gecds.on.ca

A ballot was then taken to determine if a vote would be taken solely on Taylor or whether a re-vote would be taken with Benson and Taylor combined. The result was 7-3 in favour of voting for Taylor in isolation.

The ballot was taken to determine whether or not Taylor remains in the PARC process and the result was 7-3 in favour of their removal. Taylor will no longer be a part of the committee.

The next order of business was to elect a Chairperson. Superintendent Lyons clarified that the Chair assists in setting the committee meeting agenda, runs the meetings, assists in assembling report writing and presentation committees. The facilitator may share information with the committee via the Chair. The Superintendent's office is actively involved in the majority of the necessary work.

Nominations were:

Sarah Gall, who is representing Brock School on the committee.

She accepted the nomination and was acclaimed as Chairperson. Ms Gall assumed the chair.

Binders were then distributed and each section reviewed.

Enrolments were clarified and it was explained that there are slight discrepancies as enrolments change daily.

It was suggested that the three schools removed will still maintain a PARC information board.

2. Review of minutes/Previous considerations

The minutes of the January 19 meeting have been circulated to the committee. A few minor changes have been made and they are now posted to the Board website under the PARC icon.

It was noted that the minutes stated the start of the committee meeting as 4 p.m. The file copy will be amended to read start time of meeting to be 4:30 p.m.

3. Review of Director's Annual Accommodation Report

This document was distributed at the last committee meeting. It was reviewed, paying particular attention to the areas relevant to the Forster family of schools. There were no questions or requests for clarification from the committee.

4. Review of School Information Profiles

School Information Profiles will be reviewed regularly as information is added.

Each principal reviewed their respective School Information Profile. It was noted that it is our goal to present the completed document at the second community meeting.

A teacher clarified the difference between modified and adaptive basic courses which are relevant only to Century and Western Secondary Schools. Students graduate with a certificate as opposed to a high school diploma.

There was discussion as to how the School Information Profiles will be presented to the public. The Superintendent suggested a small group of parents should determine who will present at the Community meeting.

Facility Services Information will be added by L. Hornby and then the profiles will be circulated to principals for additions/completion/changes. Principals understood that each Profile must be identical.

L. Hornby will provide electronic copies of previous presentations to the committee, which may also be found on the Board website under the PARC icon.

5. Tentative dates for future community meetings

April 2 at Century School at 5:30 p.m.

May 9 at Marlborough School at 5:30 p.m.

June 4 at Brock School at 5:30 p.m.

6. Tentative dates for future committee meetings

March 22 in the STEPS room at Forster Secondary School for a 4:30 p.m.

7. New Business

There was no new business.

8. Questions and Clarifications

Questions were answered and clarifications made during the course of the meeting.

The committee will endeavor to visit each school in the PARC during its course.

9. Next Steps

The committee was asked to review all the data that has been distributed prior to the next meeting when we will brainstorm ideas for possible solutions to the task with which we have been mandated. Remember that there are no as a bad ideas. It is necessary to explore every suggestion made.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6: 20 p.m. A light dinner was served.

Distribution:

Binder

Enrolment data

List of acronyms

Draft School Information Profiles