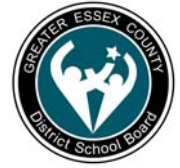


**Greater Essex County District School Board
PROGRAM AND ACCOMMODATION REVIEW
HERMAN FAMILY OF SCHOOLS
COMMUNITY MEETING # 4**

Tuesday, June 12, 2012 at 7 p.m.

Report of a meeting held at Roseville Public School



THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCOMMODATIONS CONDUCTS A PARC STUDY OF THE HERMAN FAMILY OF SCHOOLS TO:

- i. ALLEVIATE OVER CAPACITY ENROLMENT AT McCALLUM
- ii. REDUCE THE NUMBER OF EMPTY STUDENT SPACES AND IMPROVE THE UTILIZATION RATES WITHIN THE FAMILY OF SCHOOLS.

Present: There were approximately 60 persons in the audience including committee members

Regrets: N/A

Facilitator: Terry Lyons, Superintendent of Education

Recorder: Lisa Scherer

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Superintendent Lyons.

2. Introductions

Several introductions were made, including, Warren Kennedy, Director of Education; Paul Antaya, Area Superintendent; Helga Bailey, Chairperson of the Board; Cheryl Lovell, Trustee; Kim McKinley, Trustee; Connie Howe-Buckler, Trustee; Al Cook, Manager of Facility Services; Giuliana Hinchliffe, Coordinator of Engineering

3. Background

Superintendent Lyons stated that this is a public forum and minutes will be kept and then posted on the board website.

The committee will present their final recommendation which will be presented at a special meeting of the Board on Monday, June 25, 2012.

Should anyone be uncomfortable asking questions in public, we have provided cards to be completed and we will endeavour to reply promptly or you can visit the Board website.

4. Review of Process

- A committee is formed with representation from every school participating in the PARC.
- The PARC committee has regular meeting to review data and determine recommendations
- Four public meetings are held, this being the fourth
- The committee writes a report and submits the recommendations to the Director of Education
- The committee presents their report to the Board, probably at the end of June.
- The Director of Education analyses the committee report, write his own report and submits recommendations to Trustees
- Trustees vote and make the final decision, probably in the Fall term of 2012, and implementation will not take place before September 2013

5. Presentation of the Program and Accommodation Review Committee's (PARC) draft recommendations

A powerpoint presentation of the PARC Committee presentation is attached.

The rationale for the recommendation moving forward was discussed, along with the reasons why some of the recommendations presented at third community meeting have now been eliminated.

Clarification to the presentation:

- Slide 16 Enrolment Projections
 - Enrolment includes FDK students
- Slide 17 School Facility Data
 - On the ground doesn't include portables
 - FCI (Facility Condition Index) is renewal needs divided by the actual replacement value
 - Renewal backlog are issues that need to be completed but have not

6. Review of timeline

Committee presents at Special Meeting of the Board on June 20 at 7 p.m.

7. Questions and collection of input

Please be respectful of others during public meetings and refrain from making derogatory remarks about other schools and students.

Q – I have a son at McCallum proposed to transition to Herman. We saw a design as far as how the school is going to work and how they are going to accommodate JK's. How are Grades 1-8 going to be accommodated in that field? It's a track, it's a football field. There is really no play space or anything like that. I'm a graduate of Herman. I have been in that school this year and it hasn't changed in thirty years. I don't really see how it's going to accommodate especially the junior/intermediate students for a playground area there with the current situation. Is there going to be any plans for the outside? We saw plans for the inside but nothing for the outside.

R- We did visit and took a look. We are looking to the west of the building, back northwest corner to be hard top play surface area.

C- My concern is that there is the auto shop. There are constantly students bringing their cars into the auto shop. There is always traffic around that corner. The machine shop is also there.

R- That area will be totally fenced in. Students would not be moving about where and auto shop is.

Q- Is there going to something available for use to view as a propose design for the outside?

R- That definitely would be done before it gets presented if that is a decision administration moves forward with. We would look at designing something on a site plan. We would always take students safety first.

Q – I represent Gordon McGregor School. I have three children that go there Grades seven, five and one. I have been around and involved with the school for eight years. I'm on the school council and work at the school as a lunch aide. I also volunteer my time with many different activities. Our school has several volunteers daily to provide nutritional snacks and meals to the student and help with other school needs and other activities where required. There are nutritional snacks available all day. They volunteer many hours to make sure that students are provided with what they need. In addition to these volunteers we have an abundance of parents that volunteer their time for a

variety of activities such as field trips, sporting events and setting up decorations for special events or educational activities in the school or classrooms. Our school gets CYW students from St. Clair College and works very closely with Herman. The community around our school is very involved with helping each other with the school e.g. Drouillard Place for afterschool programs including homework help for younger students and Gino A Marcus for the older students. There are lots of parks in our community for our children to enjoy. There are many businesses that have recently opened that tailor to all ages of variety of different things. Our school has many amenities such as close proximity to Ford Test Track, baseball diamonds and a big school yard. We just purchased equipment for our sports team. We have an excellent band and music program. We have an excellent ECO team that has brought us up to bronze standards. Our school has three SERR classrooms for spec ed assistance which is very important. Our school has year around daycare to make it convenient for our community working parents and to ease the stress for children that have a stable environment outside of their home. We feel as a community that would be ashamed and a waste of space to close such a large school that can hold up to six hundred thirty-six students. The school has a historical agriculture design. McGregor has six point sixty-five acres and sixty-two thousand square feet. Our school has lots of parking available. Our school has a full size gym that the floor was refinished. It has a full size auditorium that was just renovated and painted. It has a full size renovated library. Our school was newly painted and the lockers were too. There was a new roof installed last summer. The student council has plans and funding to make an outdoor gathering with the location codes ready to in the fall. In September our school will be having everyday all-day kindergarten. In closing I would like to thank you for your time in listening to our concerns and feelings. Closing our school would tear apart our big community family and the bonds that we have all made and the stability for our children.

Q- I have a son a David Maxwell who would be affected by the boundary change and well as a four year old who will be going to Percy P. McCallum. What kind of boundary/guidelines will the Board put in place for keeping the students separated and their safety? I came from a school in British Columbia that was JK -12 and that included university and college students. There was a lot of bullying so I can say that I'm more than concerned that my four year old would be mingling with Grade twelve students. I'm just wondering how you are going to keep them separated.

R- For the most part when we look at that general level design, which is the first draft design the secondary is mostly on the first floor and elementary is mostly on the second floor. Timetables would be different. The elementary school would start at a different time then the secondary school. Secondary students don't have recess. Lunch hours would be different. There are all kinds of elements like that. The real difference is the people in the building. I can only speak from a secondary perspective where I worked and when you bring younger students into the school secondary school behavior I have always thought in my entire career their behavior totally improves it doesn't get worse. I think that there are elements in which we look at with respect to that and that would be something we would do our best at but not only keeping them apart there are also opportunities for them to work together and do all kinds of collaborative activities that I think are positive as well.

Q- Have you collected data from any schools that are JK-12?

R- We have our own school that is JK-12 which is Vista.

Q- Have you reached out to other provinces other areas?

R- I have gone for some interesting trips through the province that have been JK-12. You see more JK-12 schools in rural areas then you do anywhere else. We have gone to visit some of those schools and we have had a lot of positive feedback with respect to that. When you talk about data most of the data is qualitative data "How are things?", "What are some of your successes?", "What are some of the things you need to be concerned about?", "How could we structure our school to make it work that way." Not any hard data in terms of specific.

Q- Will it be two schools in one? Meaning will McCallum keep its identity in that school and Herman would keep its identity or is it going to be merged?

R-That is beyond the mandate of what this committee would do. Once a decision is made whatever the decision is made by the trustees the first thing we do is form a transition committee which would have representation from both schools if two schools are consolidating. The committee would meet together and would look work on those things.

Q- As far as studies from JK-12. Talking about rural schools an obviously much different than urbanized schools. It would be nice to look at some of those studies that deal with the separation of the students and the co-mingling of the students in North America on JK-12 and will they be looked at before the final plans of the merge?

R- We have looked at a lot of different schools. This is not necessarily something that is been thousands of schools throughout our province but the private school system has done this for years and have had tremendous success and they don't even separate the students. They are not separated at all. In the private school system they all attend school together. They are all in the same hallways together and doing all kinds of different things and they have had a great deal of success as well in those schools. In the end my philosophy and belief is going to continue to be the same it's not the structure of the building that's going to make the difference. I can go to Coronation and they are going to tell you that it's the best school in the world. I can go to McGregor and they are going to tell me it's the best school. It's the people in the building and what they do every day and I think that is what really makes us different then a lot of different areas. I know that whoever goes into that building their in that job and they better be in that job because they love kids and they are going to do what's in the best of those kids every day.

Q- I have a student at McCallum and a couple at Maxwell. I know a lot of the schools have done a lot of fundraising. I just wondered how they are going to divide that when the school separates and as well the playground equipment. I know that there is a lot of playground equipment in a lot of the schools that are no longer opened and it just sits there and a lot of it looks brand new. I just wondered if they were able to that or are they going to buy all brand new play equipment.

R- I have this conversation with Facility Services on a regular basis. It's very expensive to move equipment and if the cost of moving the equipment is higher than the actual cost of replacement value it's not going to get moved. When you talk about fundraising and stuff like that when a school communities move together for the most part the fundraising would go with them. It's not going to disappear into a melting pot. It usually transfers with those students. We try to keep the funding associated with the students as much as possible.

Q- If they do close Gordon McGregor what is going to happen to the building?

R- There is a whole process the Board goes through. We look to see if there is alternative use for the building for the Board. We are trying to be efficient and effective as we can with the buildings we have and if there is an alternative use we can have with it in terms of. If that is a recommendation the Trustees accept the biggest challenge with Gordon McGregor is the renewal needs.

C- I just don't want a boarded up building with graffiti and stuff like that.

R- We try to make sure we utilize that building and if we can't utilize that building that building would go up for sale disposition of assets. It would go up for sale if the Board has no use for the building or be offered to other publicly funded organizations.

Q- I have two children at Maxwell and one at Herman. I live on Bernard and live right across from McCallum and Herman. How are you going to control the traffic? Living there I know the amount of busses that go to McCallum. How are you going to control that? There was a football game at Herman and meet the teacher at McCallum. We couldn't get out of our driveway.

R- I could see that being a challenge. Once a decision is made that is something the Board will have to take a look at. We will have to follow the bylaw set out by the city as well as take a look at transportation. Already what we will have to do if that recommendation does move forward is figure out what a bus bay would like. What kiss 'n ride would look like? Busses might come in from a different way than they do now so the whole traffic might look different. I know exactly what you are talking about because Bernard is a narrow street but there are other options for coming into Herman other than just Bernard.

9. **Closing Comments and Adjournment**

Superintendent Lyons reminded the audience information pertaining to the PARC can be located at www.publicboard.ca. The committee will present their final recommendation to Trustees at Special Meeting of the Board on June 20 at 7 p.m.

There being no further questions, the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.