

# Greater Essex County District School Board PROGRAM AND ACCOMMODATION REVIEW HERMAN FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

Wednesday, March 21, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.

Report of a committee meeting held at Davis Public School

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**Attendance:** Josh Canty, Dominique Labbe-Samarane, Valerie Palesh, , Herman; Debra Cooper, Dawn Holmes, Coronation; Roz Breshgold, Jillian Gouin, Ann Nasser, Davis; Joe Younan, Aimee Poirier, Karen Mangham, Kim Lunansky, Maxwell; Nancy Drew, Jenna Schertzer, Rick McKellar, Derek Demonte, McCallum; Lynn McLaughlin, Minelle Toussaint-Greene, Pat Roberts, , McGregor; Milka Brown, Dave Bak-Neilson, Roseville; Heather Wilson, Community Rep; Paul Antaya, Area S.O.

**Chair:** Kelly Schwab

**Regrets:** Debbie Pestowka, Gail Baran, Suzanne Cape, Teodora Takeva

**Absence:** Alexander Duczman, Jennifer Baronsky

**Facilitator:** Terry Lyons

**Recorder:** Lynne Hornby

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.

## 1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Chairperson Schwab thanking everyone for their attendance and Principal Breshgold for hosting the meeting.

## 2. Review of minutes

The minutes of the March 6 meeting have been circulated to the committee. There being no changes, they are now posted to the Board website under the PARC icon.

The Chair indicated that Mrs. Hornby needs to be advised of any concerns with the minutes when they are circulated via e-mail to the committee for review so changes can be made. Minutes are posted on the website prior to the following committee meeting.

## 3. Review of School Information Profile and format for

Superintendent Lyons expressed concern that the School Information Profile presentation to be shared at the second community meeting of April 4 is not yet in draft format. The meeting is only two weeks away. The sub-committee needs to determine who will take the lead, parents and community members need to be actively involved in preparing the presentation.

A suggestion was made that one person from each school should be a presenter.

Superintendent Lyons reviewed various formats for presenting the School Information Profile at the meeting.

A presentation prepared by another PARC committee was reviewed.

The sub-committee members are Kelly Schwab, Ann Nasser, Aimee Poirier, Kim Lunansky and Derek Demonte. Principal Drew volunteered to begin to put a powerpoint presentation together. Ms. Schwab requested that the sub-committee meet for a few minutes following the adjournment of this evening's meeting.

The attendance sheet was reviewed; some members have indicated to respective principals that they can no longer commit to the process and will be removed, i.e. Gail Baran, Alexandra Duczman, and Jennifer Baronsky.

4. **Break into working groups examining advantages and disadvantages of brainstorming ideas from previous meeting.**

Discussion took place within the individual groups. Superintendent Lyons was available to provide any necessary clarifications.

A spokesperson was appointed for each group. Charting of each idea's advantages and disadvantages continued.

5. **Discussion and Charting**

Charting of advantages and disadvantages of each idea was completed when the committee reconvened. The completed documentation will be posted once finalized, probably after the April 4<sup>th</sup> committee meeting.

6. **Questions**

Questions were answered throughout the meeting and are noted.

Further clarifications were made.

q. What are the next steps in the process?

a. At the second community meeting, the School Information Profiles will be presented. At the third community meeting, the committee must present their draft report. At the fourth community meeting, the committee's report will be close to being finalized. We will continue to collect community input throughout the process. We anticipate that trustees will be making decisions about Administration's recommendations well in advance of kindergarten registration for 2013.

q. How do we narrow the options down and what is the optimum final amount?

a. The committee will determine through discussion and examination of relevant data (plus any information we can provide that you feel will help you make informed decisions). If consensus cannot be reached, then we will narrow the options through secret ballot. An optimum final amount might be between 3 and 5 recommendations in ranked order or not.

q. When would any changes be implemented?

a. The Board is very cognizant of providing families with enough time to make necessary arrangements for any changes and have always in the past provided enough time for transitions to be smooth.

q. Why can't we tell our communities more?

a. It is most important that all the communities receive exactly the same information at the same time. That is why correspondence is generated by the Superintendent's office. We must be careful to share fact and not opinion. As minutes of all the meetings are posted on the board website, it is wise to refer questions and concerns to the PARC area of the website. At this point in time, there are too many hypothetical options under discussion and there is a lot of ambiguity. The original brainstorming ideas are posted on the website as an attachment to the minutes of the February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. At the time when the notices of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> community meetings are sent home, we endeavor to provide the communities with the draft recommendations.

7. **Next steps**

The second community meeting will be 7 p.m. on April 4 at McCallum School.

The next committee meeting will be on that date at 4:30 p.m.

The following committee meeting will be at 4:30 p.m. on April 16 at Herman Secondary School.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The committee took a tour of Davis School.

Distribution:

*Minutes of March 6 meeting*

*Enrolment data by grade for brainstorming ideas at Maxwell School*