

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

Thursday, May 31, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.

Report of a committee meeting held in the library at at Roseville School



Attendance: Josh Canty (left at 6:30 p.m.), Valerie Palesh, Herman; Debra Cooper, Debbie Pestowka, Dawn Holmes, Coronation; Roz Breshgold, Jillian Gouin, Davis; Joe Younan, Karen Mangham, Kim Lunansky; Aimee Poirier, Maxwell; Nancy Drew, Jenna Schertzer, Rick McKellar, Derek Demonte, McCallum; Lynn McLaughlin (arrived late), Suzanne Cape, Minelle Toussaint-Greene, Pat Roberts, McGregor; Milka Brown, Teodora Takeva (left at 6:30 p.m. before any voting), Dave Bak-Neilson, Roseville; Paul Antaya, Area S.O; Heather Wilson

Chair: Kelly Schwab

Regrets: Ann Nasser, Dominique Labbe-Samarane, Alexandra Duczman

Facilitator: Terry Lyons

Recorder: Lynne Hornby

THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCOMMODATIONS CONDUCTS A
PARC STUDY OF THE HERMAN FAMILY OF SCHOOLS TO:
ALLEVIATE OVER CAPACITY ENROLMENT AT McCALLUM
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 4:38 p.m. by Chairperson Schwab thanking everyone for their attendance and Principal Cooper for hosting the meeting.

2. Review of minutes

The minutes of the May 8 meeting were reviewed. There being no changes, they will be posted to the Board website under the PARC icon.

3. Debrief – Community meeting of May 14

Superintendent Lyons led a discussion.

Public interest is increasing. K-12 English not popular. Was the public input a true representation of the whole community? There was little opposition to 7 & 8s going into the high school. Community impact was verbalized. There were concerns about Transportation. (*A copy of the policy will be provided for the use of the report writing committee.*)

There was a lot of fear but there seemed to be some confusion. We are unable to minimize some of those fears at this point in time. There was confusion around timelines, when these changes will take place. A graphic timeline with dates might prove helpful.

There were some concerns about the adjustment of the French Immersion boundary and the possibility of students moving twice.

A committee member felt that they did a poor job of explaining what a K-12 school looks like. This needs to be expanded upon.

It needs to be stressed that all the data etc. is available on the board website. The committee needs to continue to stress that we are not hiding anything at all.

At the fourth community meeting Superintendent Lyons intends to take a new approach and will be asking those providing community input what they really do want, given that status quo is not an option.

A suggestion was made that an explanation is provided as to what a K-12 school looks like. It is not the superintendent's role to provide that information at the meetings. It was felt that the committee should expand on the fact that our common philosophy is to keep the high school and the committee should state why we are moving grades 7 and 8 students; it is to fill the high school, otherwise it may be in danger of being lost.

FCI data etc. should be repeated as many will have missed previous meetings. A synopsis of each school being recommended for closure will be provided in the powerpoint.

Maxwell's community seems to be very focused on the fact that their school is full. They did not understand that the school is not expanding, rather FDK is being implemented. Additional enrolments and classrooms are due to kindergarten students attending all day instead of half days.

The committee needs to speak to the common philosophies and speak to each one definitively. Each one was reviewed briefly and suggestions were made as to how each one will be presented.

4. Examination of Community input to date

The community input received via the PARC mail-box was shared and reviewed. Superintendent Lyons made several clarifications.

The presentation must be crystal clear as to why part or all recommendations are removed from the table.

Data used at the community meeting must be consistent.

The committee went on to discuss at length the draft recommendations:

a. Close Maxwell and Coronation

Adjust McCallum's western boundary to Walker Road. All current McCallum students living west of Walker Road would attend Giles FI

All gr 7 and 8 English students to Herman

Maxwell closes. JK-6 Maxwell students transition to McGregor

Coronation closes. JK-6 Coronation students transition to Roseville

Part of this recommendation appears to be a band aid fix for McCallum. It was clarified that this provides a decade of relief act McCallum; the Bellewood boundary adjustment also provides the same amount of relief for that school. Students will be transitioned more than once. There are several unknowns. It was clarified that secondary school is determined by residential address. French Immersion is a magnet program, a specialized program. It must be remembered that there is a much smaller percentage (in comparison to elementary) of students who remain in French Immersion at the secondary level.

This option affects almost all students in the family of schools. Students will be bused out of the family of schools.

McGregor has a poor FCI and would be very costly to renovate/fix.

A committee member felt that "walking schools" had some importance for health reasons and felt that the less busing the better.

This closes two schools in relatively close proximity.

It is similar to (d) and involves a boundary adjustment for McCallum. Coronation is in great shape. It splits two school communities.

A motion was introduced to move forward with this recommendation. A vote was called and it WAS DEFEATED.

The Committee determined to ELIMINATE RECOMMENDATION (A) due to too much student transition and the splitting of two school communities.

b. Close McCallum. McCallum students transition to Herman (JK-12)

Close McGregor. McGregor students transition to the new McCallum

Maxwell's eastern boundary adjusted to Pillette Road. Maxwell students living east of Pillette Road transition to Coronation.

Data was distributed that was taken from 2015 figures. New utilization rates were determined but it was pointed out that these were averages only, each school is a different size. This causes the least amount of disruption (separating students) and closes the school with the highest FCI rate. It

meets the mandate and complies with the common philosophy. This option assists Coronation and provides Maxwell breathing space to implement FDK.

K-12 dual track at Herman is optimum. Herman would become a beacon.

This offers fewer transitions for everyone. Gives the family overall utilization of approx. 89%.

A motion was introduced to move forward with this recommendation. A vote was called and CARRIED.

The Committee determined to MOVE FORWARD WITH RECOMMENDATION (B).

The committee will elaborate on the reasons at the fourth community meeting.

c. Close McGregor and Maxwell

McCallum students transition to Herman (JK-12)

McGregor closes. Students living North of Tecumseh Road transition to new McCallum. Students living south of Tecumseh Road would transition to Davis.

Maxwell closes. Students living east of Pillette transition to Coronation. All other students transition to the new McCallum

This affects a lot of students and has previously been discussed at length. It closes two schools with the highest FCI. Do we want to spend money fixing schools with poor FCIs or educating children? Will schools with poor FCIs ever be repaired?

The current challenge is that we have declining enrolment so funding will continue to drop. The more efficiently the buildings are utilized the better. High urgent needs are boilers, windows etc. There is a real need for pro-activity across the Board.

This splits two school communities and sends them to two others. This is a lot of student transition.

A motion was introduced to move forward with this recommendation. A vote was called and it WAS DEFEATED.

The Committee determined to ELIMINATE RECOMMENDATION (C) due to too much student transition and the splitting of two school communities.

d. Close McGregor and Maxwell

Maxwell Students east of Pillette move to Coronation

Herman absorbs the remainder of the JK-8 English Students from McGregor and Maxwell

McCallum remains French Immersion with new Western Walker Road Boundary

It was felt that if retained, the language should be revised and use similar language to option b. for consistency. It is very similar to option b.

It provides relief to Maxwell and improves utilization rates. It assists McCallum and Coronation.

A motion was introduced to move forward with this recommendation. A vote was called and it WAS DEFEATED.

The Committee determined to ELIMINATE RECOMMENDATION (D) as it removes Herman students out of the Herman family and the splitting of two school communities.

A short break was taken from 6:15 to 6:30 p.m. The new recommendations were distributed for consideration over dinner. Votes took place after dinner but were noted chronologically above.

New ideas were introduced.

Option E –

A school based on the Reggio Emilia philosophy was outlined. Principal Breshgold has visited a program in the Toronto area and spoke to it. This philosophy is based on student interest and focuses on collaborative inquiry. The learning philosophy is very process oriented. – see appendix

It was noted that the Board's full day kindergarten programming is based on this philosophy. The consensus was that this topic is more program related and is actually beyond the scope of this committee. There is significant expense involved in training teachers as certification is required.

The option would affect all students in all the schools. It takes students from a school with a fairly low FCI and places them in a school with a higher FCI that is also not accessible. McCallum's student population is heavy in primary grades.

A motion was introduced to bring this recommendation forward. A vote was called and it was DEFEATED.

The Committee determined to ELIMINATE NEW RECOMMENDATION (E) as it reaches beyond the mandate of a PARC committee.

Option F

Close McGregor and transition to Roseville

Close Maxwell and transition to Coronation

All grade 7 and 8 students transition to Herman both French and English

Boundary adjustment to McCallum at Walker Road. West of Walker Road transition to Giles Campus.

This closes the two highest FCI schools, fills Herman, Coronation and Roseville. Davis is left status quo. It alleviates over capacity at McCallum with 53 empty spaces.

This doesn't provide enough relief to McCallum in the long term as it doesn't include FDK. No room for additional parking. All McGregor students would be bused, passing two other schools to get to Roseville.

This also appears to load the Herman Family of schools to the eastern part of the boundary section.

A motion was introduced to bring this recommendation forward. A vote was called and it was DEFEATED.

The Committee determined to ELIMINATE NEW RECOMMENDATION (F)

5. Update on status of draft report

Copies were distributed

There is a need to make the community understand why we have been involved in a PARC in this family of schools.

Chair Schwab requested volunteers for the report writing team.

A writing committee will be formed but the whole committee will have input via e-mail.

6. Questions and clarifications

Questions were answered throughout the meeting and are noted.

Naming new facilities is beyond the scope of this committee.

Any funds that have been raised by SAC become school board funds. (see Charitable Donations policy and regulation, BA-03)

There is a staffing process that will be followed regarding teachers at a new facility.

7. **Timeline:**

Final community meeting at Roseville on June 12 at 7 p.m. and presentation at Board meeting and Special Board Meeting on June 25 at 7:30 p.m.

What happens next?

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.