



Our Task:

At the January 15, 2013, regular meeting of the Board, Trustees approved the following recommendation regarding the Belle River Family of Schools:

1. THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCOMMODATIONS FACILITATES A BOUNDARY STUDY TO ADDRESS CAPACITY ISSUES WITHIN THE BELLE RIVER FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

Present: Bill Toews, Wes Arthur, Kathleen Westlake, Kim Beneteau, Belle River DHS; Larry Anderson, Deb Grady, Monica Hennessy, Joe Vizard, Belle River PS; Janet Hannigan, Kelly Bugfeja, Kim DeMers, Laura Armstrong, Centennial Central; Dustin O'Neil, Marg Hwozdecky, Tara Hodgson, Leigh Netherton, Lakeshore Discovery School

Regrets: Sharon Pyke, Area Superintendent

Chairperson: Terry Lyons, Superintendent of Education

Recorder: Lynne Hornby

1. Call to Order and welcome

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Superintendent Lyons who explained that his role is that of facilitator and advisor on this committee.

He noted that the Belle River family has two primary areas of concern, both of which we would hope to address during the study:

1. That Lakeshore Discovery School is over capacity, still with many portables on site. Superintendent Lyons clarified the recent funding announcement regarding Belle River PS.
2. That BRDHS is under capacity and enrolment is anticipated to continue to decline.

The differences between a boundary study and a Program and Accommodation Review were discussed.

The committee must remember to consider what is best for the system as a whole, not just their own school.

The Ministry of Education has recently announced funding for an 8 room addition at Belle River Public School. This will accommodate approx. 196 students.

2. Review of Annual Accommodation Report relative to this family of schools

The Superintendent reviewed the portion of the report specific to the Belle River family of schools.

Enrolment data was reviewed in detail, both historical and projected. Each term was explained. A handout of acronyms is included in the binder distributed to each committee member.

OTG - On the Ground – the number of students that can be accommodated in a school based on the Ministry of Education (MoE) Guidelines

Renewal – how much money needs to be invested in a school to bring it to where it would reach MoE standards.

FCI - Facility Condition Index – the dollar value of repair work needed in each school as identified in the Total Capital Planning Solution (TCPS) system divided by the replacement value for the school as determined by the Ministry of Education.

It was pointed out that the chart shows renewal needs for the Belle River family is in the area of \$13 million while the Board is funded for a total of \$5 million; there are 16 families of schools to share the funding. There is a huge shortfall.

The Ministry of Education has stated that moving forward, nothing but growth is being funded. Prohibitive to Repair grants have been eliminated.

The Board uses the services of a consultant who works with all the municipalities. We are made aware of any new housing developments which are taken into consideration when projecting enrolments.

The primary focus of this study will be on adjusting Lakeshore Discovery's eastern boundary but how that is to be accomplished is an unknown at this time. The committee will review a great deal of data and develop recommendations to be forwarded to trustees. Some considerations that are to be considered are the balance of English and French Immersion students, viability of programming.

Also to be addressed is the group of students on County Road 27 who attend a number of schools. The Transportation Consortium would like to see this streamlined.

3. Communication

We are aware that the rumour mill is already busy. It is important that information shared is accurate in order to stem the rumours. Parents can greatly assist in curtailing rumours. Superintendent Lyons reminded the group that since the western boundary was adjusted in 2010, he has said several times that he would be returning to the community to examine Lakeshore Discovery's eastern boundary.

4. Process

Ministry of Education regulations do not govern a boundary study, however, we have decided to run the process in a manner similar to a Program and Accommodation Review (PARC). A PARC is currently underway in the Tecumseh Family of Schools. By consensus, the committee determined they did not want to elect a chairperson.

This is an advisory committee to the Board; they are the decision making body. Because this is a boundary study, there will be no school closings, however, some students will be moving schools. We try to affect the least amount of students possible.

There will be one community meeting, possibly even a second; at the first one, ideas will be presented, input collected and then if it is deemed necessary, at the second community meeting the final proposal will be presented.

The goal is to have the recommendations developed for presentation to the Board of Trustees by the end of this school year. Any changes the Board determines will not be effective until September 2014. Tecumseh Vista Academy is in a PARC so their process will take a little longer.

5. Brainstorming

The committee broke up into working groups to develop ideas for further discussion and exploration.

Superintendent Lyons added that there will be no commenting or criticizing of ideas at this stage. The ideas will be recorded, we will provide any further information deemed necessary by the committee and then each idea will be explored in detail at a future meeting.

The committee did determine which ideas they felt would be plausible and so some were dismissed. See below.

BRAINSTORMING IDEAS

1. Belle River PS and Lakeshore Discovery become dual track
Adjust Lakeshore Discovery eastern boundary at Renaud (affects approx. 376 students)
Adjust Belle River PS eastern boundary to Cty Road 31 (French line)
Adjust Belle River PS southern boundary to 401 as a natural boundary
(Affects Centennial Central boundary)
FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION
2. Grade 7 and 8 students (i.e. current grade 5 & 6) from Belle River PS and Lakeshore Discovery relocate to the high school (French and English)
FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION - Possible but not in isolation
3. Use portapaks at Lakeshore Dscovery rather than portables
DISMISSED - Cost prohibitive and unlikely to be approved given there are empty student spaces
4. Belle River PS becomes dual track
Adjust Belle River PS western boundary to Rourke line
Adjust Belle River PS eastern boundary to Cty road 31(French line)
Relocate grades 7 and 8 students from Lakeshore Discovery to Belle River DHS
FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION
5. Relocate all grade 7 and 8 students (Belle River PS, Lakeshore Discovery and Centennial Central) to Belle River DHS
FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION
6. Relocate all grade 8 students (Belle River PS, Lakeshore Discovery and Centennial Central) to Belle River DHS
FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION
7. Adjust Lakeshore Discovery eastern boundary to Renaud line (English only)
Adjust Centennial Central western boundary - North of 401 and French line
FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION

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8. Lakeshore Discovery becomes French Immersion school only
Belle River PS is the English track school
Students are relocated accordingly
Adjust Centennial Central boundary
DISMISSED - Not feasible; capacity issues at Belle River PS, increased busing costs
 9. Lakeshore Discovery, Belle River PS and Centennial Central become dual track
DISMISSED - Cost prohibitive; viability of programming
 10. Lakeshore Discovery and Centennial Central become dual track, boundaries adjusted
Belle River PS remains English
FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION
 11. Lakeshore Discovery becomes English track only
Belle River PS becomes French Immersion track only
Students relocated accordingly
DISMISSED - Not feasible; Lakeshore Discovery remains over capacity, increased busing costs
6. Requests for Information and Questions:
Data for above ideas will be provided
 7. Future meeting dates
Committee meetings:
April 15
May 2
May 30

Community meeting:
May 13 at 7 p.m. at Belle River DHS
 8. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.