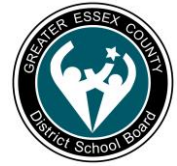


Greater Essex County District School Board
2016-2017 PROGRAM AND ACCOMMODATION REVIEW
Report of the Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 4 p.m.
Parkview Public School



At the December 13, 2016 regular meeting of the Board, Trustees approved the following recommendation regarding Eastwood PS, Parkview PS and Forest Glade PS:

THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE IMMEDIATE COMMENCEMENT OF A STANDARD PROGRAM ACCOMMODATION REVIEW THAT INCLUDES EASTWOOD PS, FOREST GLADE PS, AND PARKVIEW PS, AS SET OUT IN THE PROGRAM ACCOMMODATION REVIEW - INITIAL STAFF REPORT, DATED DECEMBER 13, 2016.

Present:

Eastwood PS: Nick Arundine, Principal, Noelle Papak, Staff Rep, Scott Lockwood, Parent

Forest Glade PS: Sandy Minato, Principal, Jenn Yoker, Staff Rep, Tom Regehr, Parent

Parkview PS: Dave Simone, Principal,

Chair: Superintendent Todd Awender

Recorder: Christine Breshamer

Regrets: Derek Marentette, Kendra Thompson-Kumar and Nicole Dupuis

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Chair Awender thanking everyone for their attendance and Principal Simone for hosting the meeting. Introductions were made. Everyone was seated in working groups.

2. Review of notes of orientation meeting of January 25, 2017

The report of the January 25 meeting have been circulated to the committee and posted to the Board website under the Student Accommodations icon. There were no changes and no questions generated from the report.

3. Review Committee/Community input to date and Information Responses

We have not received any community input to date. Once community input is received it will be placed on the website and updated from time to time. Superintendent Awender instructed the committee, should they read something questionable in the media, to contact the principal or our office for clarification.

4. Debrief - Community meeting of February 8, 2017

The consensus of the committee is that the focus groups were well received and effective. The community asked very on-point, relevant questions.

Feedback the committee has received is the community is supportive of the proposed recommendations.

With respect to the two Board meetings, Superintendent Awender polled the committee as to what time worked best. The committee felt 6:00 p.m. was reasonable.

5. Discussion to develop Guiding Considerations

Superintendent Awender collected input from the committee to develop guiding considerations. There was consensus among the committee that the consolidation of Eastwood and Parkview makes a good business case to present to the Ministry for a new build.

The Committee came up with the following guiding considerations:

- investing in the community builds public confidence
- 21st Century learning environments
- brings communities together
- allows students new experiences and more friends
- new facility has lower FCI, fewer empty spaces/higher utilization rates vs higher renewal needs and aging infrastructure
- transportation
- extra-curricular activities
- staff efficiencies at larger school and more opportunity to develop through team teaching/collaboration
- more potential for staff capacity building
- minimize the number of student changes
- seeking 400-600 student enrolment

The Committee discussed the potential for new home development in the Forest Glade catchment area and that in the current Eastwood/Parkview catchment areas, there is little new development as they are already established neighbourhoods.

Q: If Forest Glade's enrolment increases, is there the possibility of doing a boundary adjustment?
Yes, no idea is discounted.

6. Working groups:

Superintendent Awender reviewed the current recommendations with the committee. The committee then broke into working groups to brainstorm possible ideas for recommendations.

7. Group Discussion of small group ideas

Ideas were collected to be discussed further at the next meeting.

Let all students currently in the "island" area of Forest Glade continue to receive bussing

New build to replace Eastwood/Parkview be placed on neutral, centrally located site

Forest Glade new build placed on the back portion of the main site property

Forest Glade new build placed on "island" area if land is appropriate

Concern was expressed with respect to the possibility of losing students from the Forest Glade "island" area if they would not continue to receive bussing. It was discussed that all students in the French Immersion program who live in the "island" area would continue to receive bussing.

The Committee was in agreement that a new build to replace Eastwood and Parkview, on a centrally located site would be best as it would be neutral. Community feedback received is excitement about getting away from current open concept schools.

A Forest Glade new build could be done on the existing property on the back portion of that property which contains an appealing nature area. Both the PLC and the main site are each on 6 acres of land.

8. Questions

Q: If there are only 20 students in the English program who would be affected by this change in bussing, why can't they continue to receive bussing?

Q: For the kids at PLC in kindergarten (3), why can't they get bussing until they're old enough to walk? In addition, until they get out of PLC (grade 2) and are old enough to walk, can they receive bussing?

Transportation concerns will be explored. Past precedent with other boundary changes and accommodation reviews does not allow for bussing if the new district outlined has the same program, regardless of age.

Q: Can any of the schools involved in the PAR house all of the students currently in the three schools? Forest Glade is too full.

Parkview has 10 homerooms and music room (used as extra room for band or vocal music) – has LST room (too small for classroom). Also has library space used as French classroom. Eastwood has 12 homerooms and music room.

As a result, there is not enough room at either school to house the other.

Q: Is there any rationale to having a Forest Glade new build on a site to the north where new development may happen?

Why do that if boundary may be adjusted in the future?

Q: What goes into a land assessment?

A land assessment involves, but is not limited to, environmental, site, and traffic assessments, appropriate zoning, and ERCA involvement.

Q: Is there any possibility of putting a soccer field in and a new track?

On 6 acre sites with our new builds, they have a soccer field, blacktop with basketball nets, and large gyms. New tracks for elementary schools are not constructed as the initial cost and ongoing maintenance costs are too high.

Q: Could a new build be put on island property?

All ideas can be explored. The land is certainly large enough.

9. Tour of Parkview (optional)

The Committee took a brief tour of Parkview PS before adjourning.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

The next Committee meeting is at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28 at Forest Glade PS.