

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

Monday, May 7, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.

Report of a committee meeting held in the library at Kingsville DHS



Attendance: Pat Masson, Jarrod Omstead, Barb Denotter (left the meeting early) Kingsville DHS; Mona Renaud, Debbie Burgess, Lisa Bradt, Kingsville PS; Matthew Capel-Cure (left the meeting early), Gillian Carter, Terri Barrette, Jack Miner PS; Bill Cervini, Melisa Cziraky, Helen Andrade, Ruthven PS; : John van Wingerden, Community Representative; Giuliana Hinchliffe, Coordinator of Engineering, Paul Antaya (arrived late)

Regrets: MaryCatherine Langlois, Kerry Kraus, Melanie Burns

Chairperson: Elliott Dunlop, Community Representative

Facilitator: Terry Lyons

Recorder: Lynne Hornby

There were four observers in the audience.

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

- i. REDUCE THE NUMBER OF EMPTY STUDENT SPACES
- ii. IMPROVE THE UTILIZATION RATES WITHIN THE FAMILY OF SCHOOLS.

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m. by Chairperson Dunlop thanking everyone for their attendance and Principal Masson for hosting the meeting.

2. Review of minutes

The minutes of the April 24 meeting have been circulated to the committee. There being no changes, they are now posted to the Board website under the PARC icon.

Additional agenda items 3B – Information requested
 5 – add “additional suggestions”

3. Powerpoint presentation – draft recommendations

The presenters reviewed the draft powerpoint. It was noted that at the May 16th community meeting, each draft recommendation will be discussed in detail.

Some suggestions for change were made and will be included. The presentation committee will meet at 6 p.m. prior to the community meeting.

Ms. Hinchliffe noted that Tecumseh Vista Academy does not have auto shops at this time but included in the design was an option for expansion and if there is a need, then shops etc. will be added. Every community has different needs; not all schools have shops etc. The Board recognizes that each of its school communities has differing needs which would be reflected in any new school or renovation business case submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval. OYAP and Co-op programs are available to the majority of students. A transition committee for any new school would have some input into design.

The earliest that any of the recommendations under consideration could be implemented is September 2013.

Renewal costs for Jack Miner PS are higher than Ruthven because it is the larger building of the two.

A committee member noted that some of the interior classrooms at Jack Miner do not have windows and wondered if there are any concerns with students being in such rooms. Another committee member replied that her children went to that school and have not had any issues with such a learning environment.

Mrs. Hornby added that a further letter will be prepared in the Superintendent's office which will outline all the recommendations moving forward. It is to be sent home later this week.

3b. Information requested

Information requested at and since the last meeting has been answered under agenda item 7. "Questions and clarifications"

4. Ruthven revisited

The Chair has been made aware of some e-mails requesting that the option recommending the closure of Ruthven PS be revisited. Copies of the emails which were sent to individual's mail boxes were shared. This is not usual practice. Emails sent to individual mailboxes are considered private and generally the only input shared with the committee is that sent to the PARC email box as this ends up posted on the Board website. An exception was made this evening because the e-mail requested sharing with the committee.

Superintendent Lyons distributed and reviewed some community input received via mail and to his personal e-mail box, noting that it is usual that we collect input via the PARC e-mail box on the Board website as there is a disclaimer which states,

"Please be advised that by posting to the PARC mailbox you are giving your consent to publish your message in its entirety including any personal information therein."

The committee was given some time to review the package. Superintendent Lyons advised that May 16 is not the final community meeting and a committee member noted that rationale for decisions would be given at the community meeting.

Principal Cervini outlined a fourth recommendation (regarding Ruthven) for consideration,

If a second site is being considered for the location of elementary students in the Kingsville Family of Schools, Ruthven Public should be considered as there are more viable options (e.g., green space, room to add on).

Lengthy discussion took place. A committee member made reference to the previously determined common philosophies, one of which is that wherever possible, to keep school communities intact in the event of a school closure.

A committee member felt that if we are examining the viability of buildings, then Jack Miner PS and Ruthven have similar potential that Kingsville Public does not. If a second school site is necessary, then some members of the committee felt that Ruthven should be considered. They felt that with some slight boundary adjustments between Ruthven and Jack Miner, then two sites could be maintained. KPS could be closed and groups could be moved as a whole – for example all the French Immersion students and the English students could be transitioned as two independent groups.

The facilitator cautioned the committee in adding an option that is the opposite of one already on the table. This committee has examined large amounts of information that the public has not. The more options, the more confusion, which could result in ends up in hostilities between school communities. Ruthven is currently not big enough for the new option. Jack Miner PS or Kingsville PS populations would have to be split. The committee has determined that if a school is closed they would attempt to transition students as a whole. There were concerns that the committee is not seen as presenting opposites; this can cause confusion for the general public who have not had access to the same information as the committee.

The committee member bringing forward the proposal expanded. Kingsville PS closes and all those students transition to Jack Miner PS; Kingsville PS boundary becomes non-existent but the boundary of Jack Miner PS is adjusted to shift 120 students from Jack Miner to Ruthven in order to accommodate the Kingsville PS students. This is a two-step process. Consideration had not been given as to how the boundary adjustment is to be determined.

Option (b) as initially presented is a low cost solution, however, if Ruthven is substituted for Kingsville, then there is a cost factor; Ruthven is not large enough as is.

A committee member felt that the committee needed to determine how invested they are in attempting to maintain school communities as a whole. An important philosophy of the committee has been to keep school communities of closed schools intact.

Additionally, the committee has felt that Kindergarten to grade 6 students should be kept together. Is this too, a guiding principle of the committee? Ultimately, by consensus, it was felt that moving an entire school community as a whole is optimum.

Another option was proposed from the floor:

Close Kingsville PS, Ruthven and J. Miner and transition all those elementary students to Kingsville High school; in turn, the secondary students would relocate to the Jack Miner building.

There was some discussion but Superintendent Antaya interjected that this option requires a very expensive addition at Jack Miner. The school's current gym is inadequate for secondary students; there is no cafeteria, and no workshops. The most expensive sections of a secondary schools are not there and would require construction. By consensus, the committee determined this option offered too many challenges to warrant consideration.

The committee felt that all three of the solutions under consideration from the last meeting are permanent solutions, not interim. The committee will need to determine a rank order of the options by the June 7th Community meeting.

The committee went on to discuss whether or not four options would be presented. Status quo is not an option, and it is likely that some community will be upset by decisions made at this committee level.

Ms. Hinchliffe clarified costs associated with the options. The demolition of Kingsville Public or an addition to Jack Miner PS would have a cost factor. Ultimately, when a business case is submitted to the Ministry of Education, they are looking for the best option with the least associated costs. Option (b) is almost cost neutral. The required 3 additional FDK rooms are already approved for Kingsville PS. It is budgeted for \$1.5 million. The addition would go potentially where the old part of the school would be demolished.

There would be a cost of approx. \$3m for an addition at Jack Miner PS for classrooms over and above the FDK rooms.

The most expensive option is (a) K-12 school at approx. \$26m.

A committee member asked if there was a boundary adjustment for Ruthven School and the family preferred, would it be possible for the student to attend another school in closer proximity to the home address? The Superintendent answered that in such a circumstance, the Board would provide an option based on needs. If someone lived closer to Kingsville PS rather than Jack Miner, then the Board would attempt to accommodate their needs/requests.

It was noted that some monies are available for renovations, but it was clarified that Full-Day Kindergarten funding is attached to the students and so the funding transfers to the applicable site with the students.

Ms. Hinchliffe added that while it is difficult, it is possible to relocate portapaks but we do not have any available that could be moved at this time. It was clarified that Kingsville Public has a permapak not a portapak.

Superintendent Lyons stressed that as the facilitator, he needed to ensure that the committee is comfortable moving forward and he wanted to be certain everyone feels that their voices have been heard. Not everyone on the committee will be on the same page, despite extensive efforts to remain neutral, everyone has their own bias.

There was discussion as to whether or not the committee desired to add a fourth recommendation (the one presented earlier this evening) to those moving forward.

A committee member felt that by doing so, they would be contradicting their previously determined philosophy. They might also appear un-decided.

A committee member approached the Chair requesting that three options only remain. It was noted that two voting members had left the meeting early this evening and with those absent, only four voting members remained. There was further discussion and a committee member suggested that the Chair call a vote on adding the fourth option.

Chairperson Dunlop called a vote and it was

DEFEATED.

And so, the recommendations moving forward are:

- (a) Build a JK- grades 12 dual track school for all students within the Kingsville family
- (b) All grade 7 & 8 students transition to Kingsville DHS; Kingsville PS remains dual track for JK- grade 6 with demolition of "old section"; close Ruthven PS & transition JK- grade 6 students to Jack Miner PS
- (c) All grade 7 & 8 students transition to Kingsville DHS; All JK- grade 6 students transition to Jack Miner PS with an addition built; close Ruthven PS & Kingsville PS

5. Kingsville PS revisited

It was determined not to revisit.

6. Format for community meeting

The presentation committee will be meeting prior to the community meeting to ensure all is in order. Jack Miner School has not been toured by the committee and Vice Principal Barrette offered a tour of the school at 6:15 p.m. for the committee on May 16.

7. Questions and clarifications

If we demolish "old" section at Kingsville PS, approx. savings against the renewal backlog at KPS?
Savings against renewal backlog would be approx. \$1,957,581

Can the portables be moved from Kingsville PS, and if so, approx. cost if known?

It costs between \$20 - 25,000 to move portables and \$85 - 90,000 to buy new. We cannot move any portables onto Kingsville Public School's site as we would be violating the parking space restrictions. In order to move additional portables onto that site, we would be required to add parking spaces to meet the municipality bylaws. There is no room to put parking spaces in.

How many total schools in the GECDSB system?

There are currently 16 secondary and 60 elementary sites.

How many students are there per classroom, on average, in an elementary school, JK-6?

The Board's enrolments submitted to the Ministry of Education reflect:

JK-3 – 20 students; FDK – 26 students; Grade 4-6 – 24.7 students

If a member of the public brings forth a totally different option from those under consideration, the committee will examine all input from the public meeting and determine if changes are to be made.

The committee makes the recommendations to trustees, the committee is not a decision making body.

Senior Administration reviews all the data and the committee's report and then determines their recommendations.

Committee decisions have been made based on enrolment projections. Enrolment projections have a 1-2% accuracy rate for the first 5 years.. An independent consultant prepares the Board's projection data.

8. Additional committee meetings

May 30th has already been set for a final committee meeting when the committee will make its final decisions based on input from the May 16th community meeting. If necessary, an additional meeting date will be added and the committee will be notified via email following the community meeting.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Distribution:

Minutes of April 24 committee meeting

Charting of ideas and brainstorming ideas

Community input