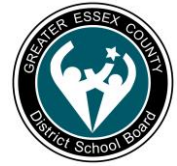


Greater Essex County District School Board
2015 PROGRAM AND ACCOMMODATION REVIEW
Report of a Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.
in the library of General Amherst HS



At the December 9, 2014, regular meeting of the Board, Trustees approved the following recommendation regarding General Amherst HS, Harrow DHS, Harrow PS, Kingsville DHS and Western SS,

THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCOMMODATIONS FACILITATES AN ACCOMMODATION REVIEW OF GENERAL AMHERST HIGH SCHOOL, KINGSVILLE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL, WESTERN SECONDARY SCHOOL, HARROW DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL AND HARROW PUBLIC SCHOOL, TO ADDRESS CAPACITY ISSUES.

Present:

General Amherst HS: Hazel Keefner, Principal, Amy Soucie, Staff Rep, Mary Lippert and Kim Laframboise, parents

Harrow DHS: Bill Parr and Sheri Dzudovich, parents

Harrow PS: Michelle Sprague- Keane, Principal, Teri Gorick, Staff Rep, Rebecca Robinson, Trudy Richards, parents

Kingsville DHS: Dina Salinitri, Principal, Chris Clements, Staff Rep, Michelle Hedge and Bill Orawski, parents

Western SS: Melissa McIntyre, Principal, Alison Oldfield, Staff Rep, Valerie Cormier, , parents

Community Reps: Barry Mannell, Pat Catton, Elaine Mailloux, Mary MacLauchlan (via telephone)

Regrets: Mary Edwards, John Konopaski, Robin Trepanier

Facilitator: Superintendent, Todd Awender

Recorder: Lynne Hornby

There were 3 observers in the audience.

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Chairperson Orawski thanking everyone for their attendance and Principal Keefner for hosting the meeting.

2. Review of notes of committee meeting of March 23

As requested at the last committee meeting, the notes of the March 23 meeting have been circulated to the committee. There were no changes and they will now be posted to the website.

Business Arising:

Spoiled Ballot, meeting of March 23

Following the vote to remove 2 recommendations, namely items 2, 3 and 7, from the table at the last meeting, it was brought to our attention that one of the ballots was spoiled, leading to a recount. This now means that item 2 and 7 were a tied vote and so only recommendation 3 is removed from the table at this time.

3. Community Input to date and Information Responses

Input received via the parc email box was distributed. It was noted that this input is posted on the website periodically. It was reviewed briefly.

Information from M. MacLauchlan, re Direct consequences if Western program is moved

The communication was distributed. Superintendents L. McLaughlin and T. Lyons have provided some clarifications to some of the statements in Ms. MacLauchlan's communication which Superintendent Awender read.

It was pointed out that the Collective Agreement applies to all secondary schools in the same manner. Teachers must be qualified to teach the subject, across the board, wherever they are teaching. AB student classes would be staffed in the same manner wherever those classes are housed.

The IPRC process was clarified by a teacher. It determine identification and recommends a placement for that particular student. A parent can agree or disagree with the recommendations.

A Motion was brought forward for the committee to reconsider a recommendation to leave Western status quo with the addition of expanded programming.

Discussion took place to consider this proposal as a modification to some of the existing proposals.

One committee member didn't believe that any changes to any schools should be taking place in light of the minister's new rules regarding community hubs.

A secret ballot took place. The motion was defeated.

Principal Sprague-Keane spoke to draft recommendation 6, pointing out how many students and communities would be disrupted by having a boundary change that would see Malden close and transitioning to Amherst and Harrow; and also closing Colchester North PS and having the students transition between Essex PS and Harrow PS. She provided data on the numbers of grade 8 students that would be affected.

Col NPS has 26 grade 8 students; Malden has 16

She felt that the way the recommendation is written, it would negatively impact the elementary schools and cause a lot of disruption in several communities. It does not solve the high school capacity and programming issues. She proposed that #6 be amended.

Discussion took place.

A Motion was put on the floor to remove first two lines of #6, that is:

Change boundary – close Malden they go to Amherst and Harrow

Close CNPS they go to Essex and Harrow

A secret ballot took place. The motion carried.

4. Discussion: finalize draft recommendations

A letter from Essex town council that was sent to the parc mailbox late in the day on April 8 was read by S. Dzudovich. This letter had not been received at the time board staff left the office.

It was pointed out that the letter was addressed to the Board and was beyond the scope of the PARC committee.

A committee member felt that all the communities should adopt the recommendations outlined in the letter that was written directly concerning Harrow. The community wants some time to work with the appropriate authorities to find a viable solution for all. He said that the GECDsB has an opportunity to pilot a community hubs project and show the rest of the province that hubs are successful.

He then recommended status quo for all the school communities until there is a serious review regarding hubs. He stated that Boards are being forced to consolidate schools which will ultimately have an economic impact. The new Accommodation Review regulations do not allow for parent committees; parents are going to be stripped of their rights to voice concerns.

The committee broke into working groups, by individual school, to each develop a preferred recommendation. Below are the new draft recommendations that developed.

Recommendations for discussion:

Harrow DHS and PS

Maintain JK-12 education in Harrow, Kingsville and Amherstburg

Maintain WSS as is

Implement community hubs in each community/school

JK-12 buildings in Harrow and Kingsville

Make Colchester North and Malden Central feeder schools for Harrow DHS

No school may be reviewed in a PARC more than once every 7 years

A secret ballot was taken and the motion CARRIED

General Amherst HS

Close Western SS and move the AB program to General Amherst HS as a segregated program

LDC students have option to go to home school or follow WSS to new location

A newly built school on board/town approved site

A secret ballot was taken and the motion CARRIED

KDHS

JK-12 new build for Kingsville

A Secret ballot was taken and the motion CARRIED

or

JK- 12 with adjusted boundaries to include students from Harrow DHS

A Secret ballot was taken and the motion was DEFEATED

Western SS

Status quo with expanded programming

A secret ballot was taken and the motion CARRIED

Or

If Western closes then the programs move as a whole to a facility that is as segregated as possible.

A secret ballot was taken and the motion CARRIED

Discussion ensued in an attempt to combine all these above options into two draft recommendations to be presented at the third community meeting. Three draft recommendations will move forward.

Recommendation 1

- Maintain WSS and expand programming
- Implement community hubs in each community/school
- JK-12 facility in Harrow and JK-12 new build in Kingsville
- Designate Colchester North and Malden Central schools as feeder schools for Harrow DHS
- No school may be reviewed in a PARC more than once every 7 years

Recommendation 2

- Implement community hubs in each community/school
- JK-12 facility in Harrow and JK-12 new build in Kingsville
- Designate Colchester North and Malden Central schools as feeder schools for Harrow DHS
- Close WSS and transition to General Amherst as a separate program

Recommendation 3

- Consolidation of HDHS and KDHS – close Harrow; KDHS new JK-12 school
- Close WSS and move AB program to General Amherst as a separate program
- Current LDC student population from WSS have option to go to home school or follow WSS to new location; any future LDC students would attend local high schools
- A newly built General Amherst High School in Amherstburg on board/town approved site, possible school within a school

5. Format for presentation of recommendations at Community meeting of April 13

A committee member voiced his opinion as to how the community meeting should be run. It was pointed out that determining how input is collected at the community meeting is beyond the scope of this committee.

Committee members Bill Orawski, Valerie Cormier, Sherry Dzudovich volunteered to present the recommendations for each.

6. Questions

Questions were answered in general discussion throughout the meeting.

7. Additional committee meeting dates

April 20 at Harrow DHS

April 30 at Western SS

8. Adjournment at 9:33 p.m.