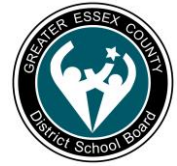


Greater Essex County District School Board
2015 PROGRAM AND ACCOMMODATION REVIEW
Report of the Organizational Committee Meeting
Monday, January 26, 2015 at 5 p.m.
General Amherst High School



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 parent

Harrow DHS: Mary Edwards, Principal, John Konopaski, Staff Rep, Bill Parr and Sheri Dzudovich, parents

Harrow PS: Michelle Sprague- Keane, Principal, Teri Gorick, Staff Rep, Trudy Richards and Rebecca Robinson, 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, Robin Trepanier and Valerie Cormier, parents

Community Reps: Elaine Mailloux, Barry Mannell, Mary MacLauchlan

Regrets: Pat Catton and Kim Laframboise

Facilitator: Superintendent Todd Awender

Recorder: Lynne Hornby

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Superintendent Awender thanking everyone for their attendance and commitment to the process. He thanked Principal Keefner for hosting the meeting. Introductions were made. Mr. Awender gave a brief review of his career to date with the Board.

He assured the committee that no decisions have been made at this time; there is no pre-conceived notion of the outcome. We hope this committee will be able to determine some creative solutions to some of the issues we face at present. We need to build efficiencies in our board. He then asked that everyone keep an open mind throughout the process and respect each other's thoughts and ideas. He made reference to a phrase that Superintendent Lyons used frequently, "that status quo is not an option." Everyone is passionate about their own schools but we do have exceptional programs in every one of our schools. One school is not better than another. Be respectful of each other. Please try to prevent rumours in your communities.

Agendas were distributed, along with a binder. The contents of the binder were reviewed briefly. Copies of the Board's Policy and Regulation, "Student Program and Accommodation" as well as the 2014 Annual Accommodation Report are included in the binder.

The first line in the regulation is paramount, ".....GECD SB is responsible for operating and maintaining its schools as effectively and efficiently as possible to support student achievement."

The Superintendent continued to outline the format for this afternoon's meeting.

2. Role of the Principal, School Council Chair, Committee Chair and members, Facilitator

Superintendent Awender reviewed each role in a Program and Accommodation (PARC) review.

The facilitator attempts to provide any information as requested and organizes speakers etc.

Principals act as resources to the committee, as do parents, who also act as liaison to the school community. Community members offer the perspective of the larger community.

Trustees are the decision makers, not this committee; this committee makes recommendations.

The responsibilities of the PARC were then reviewed.

3. Election of Chairperson

Superintendent Awender reviewed the role of the Chairperson.

Nominations were Bill Orawski and Mary Lippert. A vote was taken. Principals Keefner and MacIntyre scrutinized the votes. Mr. Orawski was successful, was congratulated and assumed the chair.

4. Review of 2014 Annual Accommodation Report

This was deferred to the next meeting when Superintendent Awender will present a powerpoint, noting the reasons why the Board undertakes Program and Accommodation Reviews. Members were asked to review the report before that time.

5. Review of Board's Policy and Regulation "Student Program and Accommodation"

The document was reviewed in detail, noting that the Board's policy and regulation incorporates the Ministry of Education's guidelines.

It was noted that step 1 of the process is already completed; we have identified and notified the schools to be reviewed. The Superintendent explained the reasons why a PARC is undertaken. He clarified that if the committee should reach a point where they cannot move forward, the Board has the right to complete the process. Members who cannot continue at any point are not replaced.

There are no student representatives.

The Board will place an active link on each school's website to the Board's PARC link on the GECDSEB site so that all schools are kept informed and they all receive the same information.

As part of its responsibilities, the Board has provided its mandate which is the motion of the December 9 Board meeting.

A list of the partnerships within each family of schools was distributed.

Early in the process, the Facilitator will provide an alternative option to the original motion of the Board.

The Board now completes the School Information Profile for the committee early in the study. Previously, the committee collected the information. The type of information in each school's profile must be consistent.

The organizational meeting of the committee is a closed meeting and the committee may also choose to hold up to two more closed committee meetings during the course of the PARC.

Voting rights and decision making were discussed. We cannot predict the final outcome of this PARC. This is an evolving process.

6. Completion of School Information Profile

The School Information Profile is now completed by Board personnel. The Superintendent reviewed how each section's information is collected.

It is necessary that the information in each school's profile is the same. This will be discussed further at the next meeting. It was noted that Western Secondary does have some anomalies.

7. Review of timelines and meeting days:

Monday at 5:30 p.m. seemed to be a good time for most people. Meetings can vary in length and every effort is made to keep them less than two hours. If they are going to be longer we will provide light dinner etc.

Attendance at all meetings was encouraged and as they are determined, meeting dates are published on the website: publicboard.ca

8. Tentative dates for community meetings

There will be four public consultation meetings.

The date for the first community meeting was determined. At this meeting, we will outline the PARC process, share the School Information Profile templates and take general questions.

Any communications will be generated from the Superintendent's office so that everyone receives the same message. It is imperative that any communications are identical and must be sent home on the exact same day. No community should have advance notice over another.

Community meeting at 6:30 p.m:

1. Thursday January 29 at General Amherst HS
2. Monday March 2 at Harrow DHS
3. Monday April 13 at Western SS
4. Tuesday May 12 at Kingsville DHS

Committee meetings at 5:30 p.m:

1. Monday January 26 at General Amherst HS
2. Monday February 9 at Harrow DHS
3. Monday February 23 at Western SS
4. Monday March 9 at Kingsville DHS
5. Monday March 23 at Harrow PS
6. Wednesday April 8 at General Amherst HS

9. Questions and Clarifications

There will be a walk-through of each school for the committee as the beginning of the meeting.

It was clarified that trustees will make their final vote in the Fall, probably October.

In reply to a question regarding only Harrow Public's inclusion in the PARC and not the other feeder schools, it was clarified that it was included because the grade 7 and 8 students are currently accommodated in the high school.

In order to fulfil obligations of the Regulation, Superintendent Awender will provide an alternative option to the original motion of the Board at the next committee meeting.

A committee member stated that Kingsville is in a PARC already. Superintendent Awender corrected that they are not; that PARC was over once the Board approved the Motion on November 20, 2012.

It was also clarified that it is unlikely that the last capital submission regarding Kingsville will be approved by the Ministry of Education in the spring, based on the unfavourable response from the submission to the Ministry on October 31, 2104. It is hoped that through this PARC process some creative solutions will be the final outcome that could potentially help build a stronger business case in submissions for capital priorities to be approved and awarded.

10. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.