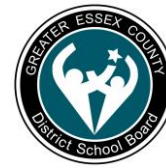


# Greater Essex County District School Board

## BOUNDARY REVIEW

### RIVERSIDE AREA SCHOOLS



Report of a meeting held in a classroom of Hetherington School  
On Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 4 p.m.

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At the November 18, 2014, regular meeting of the Board, Trustees approved the following recommendation regarding Hetherington, Princess Elizabeth and Dr. David Suzuki Public Schools:

**THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCOMMODATIONS FACILITATES A BOUNDARY STUDY INVOLVING, HETHERINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL, PRINCESS ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOL AND DR. DAVID SUZUKI PUBLIC SCHOOL, TO ADDRESS CAPACITY ISSUES AND PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT THE SUPERINTENDENT OF ACCOMMODATIONS PRESENT THE BOUNDARY STUDY PROCESS TO TRUSTEES FOR APPROVAL.**

The process was approved at the regular meeting of the Board on December 9, 2014.

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**Present:** Hetherington School, Jackie Connelly, Principal, Brenda Popovich, staff rep, Lori Gault and Jennifer Archer, parent reps; Dr Suzuki School, Jan Fairall, Principal, Karen Lamoure, staff rep, Philippa von Ziegenweidt and Deb Sissons, parent reps; Princess Elizabeth School, Penny Fremlin, incoming Principal, Megan Toye, staff rep, Kelly Reitsma and Jennifer Cadarette, parent reps; Lorraine Caba and Betty Turner, Community reps

**Regrets:** nil

**Chairperson:** Todd Awender, Superintendent of Education

**Recorder:** Lynne Hornby

1. Call to Order and welcome

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. Review of notes of meeting of March 25

There were no changes. The notes are posted on the website.

3. Business arising from notes

nil

4. Review of Community input and final recommendations

The committee was afforded some time to review the notes from the Community meeting and input received to date, from the meeting and via the parc email box.

It was clarified that the students who left Princess Anne to go to Lowe and come back to Suzuki went together as a whole. A committee member pointed out that they were not separated, but rather the whole school was relocated, class by class with the respective teacher, during the period of demolition of the old school.

A committee member noted that we heard a lot of allegations that there is a large amount of students attending Suzuki who are out of district. Is that true?

We believe that while there may be some out of district students, there are not the numbers reported at the Community meeting. We do the best we can but if people are determined to get around a process, they will. We have had an administrative procedure in place for some time and a very specific listing of approved documents for address verification that we ask families to produce. Some documentation is not accepted by us ( e.g. temporary drivers' licence).

We also have a number of split families. If a court order specifies joint custody and one parent lives in boundary, they do have the right to choose one school over another.

She wondered how we appease those people who are saying that there are so many students out of district?

We ask them to name the families. If we are provided with names, we always follow up.

A committee member spoke to the presentation made by ETFO and it was noted that the Superintendent of Elementary Staffing has a contingency plan in place for teachers and staffing procedures that was been shared with the Federation prior to the meeting.

Another committee member asked if this does not go through this year, will Suzuki need another portable? She remarked that there were budget discussions at the last board meeting and it does not sound good. Spending money on another portable for Suzuki is wasteful. The money could be spent elsewhere in the classroom.

Based on projected staffing, each of the three schools could continue status quo for another year.

The Superintendent requested that the committee look at this from the perspective of a family whose child must relocate. He noted that we must address capacity issues but we don't want to put another portable on the Suzuki property while at the same time we want to affect as few families as possible. On the other hand we don't want to move portables off site and then move them back again within a short period of time.

It was pointed by a committee member out that the most vocal opposition seems to be those who can see Suzuki and now will have to walk a further 700m to another school. Some of the families in these streets would like to see their children finish at Suzuki but did not seem opposed to having new families or their own future siblings follow the new boundary. This wouldn't alleviate the portable problem immediately.

Some of the parents on the committee particularly felt it will be important for the children to visit their new schools. It was explained that as a Board, we have a very successful transitioning program throughout the system. Some felt that transitions appear to be more difficult for the parents rather than the children.

Some in the room felt the opportunity to walk to a smaller school would outweigh attending a larger school. There could be a slight increase in busing overall, but Suzuki will have a substantial decrease. It was pointed out by a committee member that we need to focus on all students. Focusing only on a couple of streets provides an inequity.

It was pointed out that if the children on the two streets in question attend Princess Elizabeth they are no longer crossing a very busy road (Jefferson). It is a logical boundary. There will be fewer children crossing a busy street. It's safer for them to walk in the other direction through a residential area.

The Superintendent pointed out options to be considered:

The original proposal is feasible.

The second alternative would be that the original proposal remain the same except changes are delayed one year until September 2016 for those already in attendance at the three schools for the 2014-15 school year. New registrations move for September 2015.

A third option would be that new registrations move for September 2015. Everyone currently in attendance as of the three the schools for the 2014-15 school year is allowed to stay until; grade 8 without transportation. Future sibling follow the new boundaries.

Lengthy discussion took place. The committee was very conscious of being fair and equitable to all families. The committee felt by consensus that the preferred recommendation moving forward would be:

**BASED UPON AUTHENTICATED HOME ADDRESS: ALL FAMILIES REGISTERED AT AN AFFECTED SCHOOL WHO RESIDE IN AN AREA TO BE TRANSITIONED TO A NEW LOCATION, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2015, SHALL BE PROVIDED A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ADVISING OF THE CHANGE.**

**ONLY STUDENTS CURRENTLY ATTENDING Dr. DAVID SUZUKI PUBLIC SCHOOL, HETHERINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL and PRINCESS ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOL AS OF THE 2014-15 SCHOOL YEAR WILL BE GRANTED A LIMITED EXCEPTION, WITHOUT TRANSPORTATION, TO REMAIN AT THE RESPECTIVE SCHOOL UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF GRADE 8.**

**FUTURE SIBLINGS REGISTERING FOR SEPTEMBER 2015 AND BEYOND WILL FOLLOW THE NEW BOUNDARIES.**

5. Format for Presentation at Board meeting on May 19:

The process for making a presentation at the Board meeting was reviewed:

If you wish to provide input to the Trustees, there are two procedures to ensure you are heard:

Contact Melissa LeBoeuf, 519-255-3200 extension 10259, by 12 noon on Monday prior to the meeting to have your name placed on the agenda. However, due to Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> being a holiday, the deadline will be extended to Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. This will allow you to make a 10 minute presentation to the Board.

Individuals or groups requesting permission to appear and speak before the Board shall be requested to present their materials in writing to the Secretary of the Board prior to the meeting.

**(OR . . .)**

You may sign a Speakers' List on the evening of the school board meeting, no later than 6:45 p.m. on the evening of the school board meeting. This will allow you to make a 5 minute presentation.

Volunteers were requested to assist in presenting at the Board: Philippa von Zeigenweidt, Kelly Reitsma and Laurie Gault. (Mrs. Gault has since declined)

6. Requests for Information/Questions

Questions were answered throughout the meeting.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6: 35 p.m.