Greater Essex County District School Board Tecumseh Family of Schools Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. Report of a meeting held at AV Graham School



Our Task:

At the January 15, 2013, regular meeting of the Board, Trustees approved the following recommendation regarding the Tecumseh Family of Schools:

1. THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCOMMODATIONS FACILITATES AN ACCOMMODATION REVIEW OF THE TECUMSEH FAMILY OF SCHOOLS TO ADDRESS CAPACITY ISSUES AND THE MODELS OF PROGRAM DELIVERY:

Present: Tecumseh Vista Academy, Joan Rankin, Simona Baggio, Helen Papanastassiou, Paul Bisson, Heather Emery, Diana Fratarcangeli; DM Eagle School, Arlene Bryce Hanson, Rachel Bulmer, Shelly Hodare; Victoria School, Dave Simone, Jody Lamb; and AV Graham School, Amanda Dibbs, Wayne

Samwell, Bill Murray, Brenda Fletcher; Community representatives, Eileen Fournier

Regrets: Sharon Pyke, Marsha Tterlikkis

Absent: Doug Marshall, Natalie Hatch, Daniel Hofgartner **Chairperson:** Terry Lyons, Superintendent of Education

Recorder: Lynne Hornby

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Samwell at 5:35 p.m.

2. Review of minutes of committee and community meeting

The minutes of the June 5 meeting have been circulated to the committee via e-mail. They have been posted to the Board website and copies will be filed to be shared with Trustees at a later date. Copies were provided to the committee.

3. Review Community input to date

The committee was afforded time to review community input received via the e-mail box to date.

4. Review of updated data

Superintendent Lyons opened the discussion. The Board's consultant has been in contact regarding new development factors. The Tecumseh development factor was updated in 2010 and has been used to develop enrolments through 2025. The information package contains updated enrolment data without new development factored in. It is now anticipated that the new development will not come online until 2020. On examining the data, we could allow for a limited exception for those students already attending Tecumseh Vista. A limited exception is for those students only; any future siblings and registrants from the new area, following the 2013-14 school year, must follow the new boundaries. This was an original recommendation of the committee which we are revisiting.

The Transportation Consortium has provided a map of the student distribution in French Immersion. It clearly depicts that the majority of the students are attending from the Forest Glade area.

When the western boundary of the school was determined, the Board was attempting to relieve McCallum's over capacity issues, however, once those families living in the Forest Glade area realized they could choose a French Immersion program closer to home , they opted in. This influx of students who had not previously shown an interest in French Immersion exacerbated Tecumseh Vista's capacity issues.

The new data provides an option for reconsideration of the recommendation. It will not change any of the recommendations but adds a limited exception for those students who are current as of the 2013-14 school year. The term limited exception was explained as it will pertain to this situation ONLY:

Whoever is attending the school during the 2013-14 school year will be allowed to remain. This limited exception does mean that future siblings of those already in attendance will not attend Tecumseh Vista and must follow the new proposed boundary. French Immersion programming, for the future students in the area in question, will be offered at Forest Glade School in a dual track setting. There will be some portables at Tecumseh Vista.

For example, if a family had student in grade I and grade 2 as of the September 2013-14 year, they would stay At Tecumseh Vista but future siblings would attend French Immersion at the new site, Forest Glade School.

Tecumseh Vista can accommodate this amount of students but the boundary must be adjusted for future intake.

Birth rates are decreasing even in growth areas. There is also a decline in the group of children aged 1 – 4 years, we will not be seeing large groups of students entering kindergarten. We have received information that development will be slowed and none of the development previously anticipated in the Tecumseh area is expected to materialize before 2020. This is significant. September 2013 would be the last intake from the current boundary. Any new students thereafter would follow the new boundary. This includes siblings of those already in the school.

Chairperson Samwell moved that the recommendations be amended to include the following wording:

"Students attending Tecumseh Vista Academy as of the 2013-14 school year will be granted a limited exception to remain at Tecumseh Vista Academy."

(for recommendation A and B)

A vote by show of hands was taken

In favour 5; Against 2

Moving forward, this recommendation will be added.

The French Immersion program will be phased in at Forest Glade School effective September 2014; first grade would be junior kindergarten

5. Finalize recommendations for June 17 Community meeting

The PARC committee's recommendations will be amended as:

a) Close Victoria Public School in 2014 and transition students to AV Graham School creating a JK- grade 8 school.

Adjust Tecumseh Vista's French Immersion western boundary to west of Banwell Rd., North of E.C. Row; transition affected students to attend a dual track program at Forest Glade School for September 2014

Students attending Tecumseh Vista Academy as of the 2013-14 school year will be granted a limited exception to remain at Tecumseh Vista Academy.

b) Close Victoria Public School in 2014 and transition students to AV Graham School creating a JK- grade 8 school.

Adjust Tecumseh Vista's French Immersion western boundary to west of Banwell Rd., North of E.C. Row; transition affected students to attend a dual track program at Forest Glade School for September 2014;

The Board pursues Capital Funding from the Ministry of Education and if approved closes DM Eagle upon;

Priority #1 – the completion of a new school in the North Shore and DM Eagle students will be transitioned to the new dual track JK-8 grade school; or

Priority #2 – the completion of an addition to AV Graham Public School to accommodate DM Eagle students

Students attending Tecumseh Vista Academy as of the 2013-14 school year will be granted a limited exception to remain at Tecumseh Vista Academy.

c) Adjust Tecumseh Vista Secondary French Immersion western boundary to bring it into line with the Elementary French Immersion boundary.

A further communication will be sent out and the recommendations on the website will be updated.

6. Review of presentation for June 17 Community meeting and Special Board meeting June 19

Principals Rankin and Dibbs; parents, B. Fletcher, J. Lamb, D. Fratarcangeli and school personnel S. Baggio formed the sub-committee preparing the powerpoint presentation. Presenters will be:

June 17: Wayne Samwell, Shelly Hodare and Diana Fratarcangeli

June 19: Wayne Samwell and Diana Fratarcangeli

Superintendent Lyon will present the data for both presentations.

Changes to the presentation were noted by a committee member to be made before presentation at the Board meeting

The new format for the community meeting was outlined.

7. Review of report to Trustees for June 19, 2013 – must be received by Thursday June 13 at noon

Principals Rankin and Dibbs; parents, B. Fletcher, J. Lamb, D. Fratarcangeli and school personnel S. Baggio formed the sub committee preparing the written report. The will be forwarded to L. Hornby by noon on June 17 for incusing in the Board agenda package.

8. Questions and Clarifications Reserved seats will be available for committee members at the Special Board meeting.

9. Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.