

THE KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE - PETERBOROUGH SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

**MINUTES - May 12, 2011**

PRESENT: Don Blair (Chairperson), Peter Mangold, Rose Kitney, Roy Wilfong, Cathy Abraham, Melanie Foulkes, Natalie Hawthorne, Lauren Dallin, Darrell Wright, Rachel Bemrose, Madeline Brown, Scott Tuck, Alison Sadowski, Kim Whiteside, Carissa McCaw, Lori Quinlan, Sean Hazeldine, Staphanie Coleman-Sadd, Melanie O’Grady, Denise Severin, Margaret Marchen, Andrew Pyle, Barry Adams, Joseph DiGuseppe, Rebecca Ballarin, Annie Johnston, Mary Harran, Tammy Salem, Janet Wylie, Tony Spiridis, Bob Gallagher, Eileen Madder, Keith Riel, and Cheryl Gzik.

REGRETS: Amanda Little

ITEM	DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Call To Order	<p>Chairperson Don Blair called the meeting to order and introduced the Committee members and identified the group which they represent.</p> <p>D. Blair introduced Director Rusty Hick who introduced the Vice Chairperson of the Board Angela Lloyd, Trustees Shirley Patterson and Gord Gilchrist, as well as Senior Administration who were in attendance.</p> <p>Chairperson, Don Blair explained that the Accommodation Review Committee must meet in a public setting, and does not have the opportunity to meet privately. Don thanked the Committee members for their work to date and explained that the expectation was to provide recommendation(s) to the Board at the conclusion of this meeting. A report from the ARC will be presented to the Board for information on Thursday, May 26, 2011.</p>		
2. Adoption of Agenda	The Agenda was approved with no changes.		
3. Adoption of Minutes	<p>The Minutes were approved with the following change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Item 6.2 - add: response from Lesley Parnell “No, because Kenner is 100% accessible.</li> <li>• Page 17 - Item 6.7 - revise “IP Diploma” to “IB Diploma”.</li> </ul>	Revised April 7, 2011 ARC Minutes	Cheryl Gzik

<p>4. Public Delegations 4.1 Jean Greig - Youth Emergency Shelter</p>	<p>Jean Greig, Chair of the Board of the Youth Emergency Shelter (YES) of Peterborough clarified that she was not speaking in favour or against any particular school closure or retention, but was there to speak about the Carriage House Alternative Classroom. The Carriage House is an alternative classroom located in the old Carriage House directly behind the main shelter building on Brock Street. The Youth Emergency Shelter houses the classroom, covers overhead costs, provides a child and youth worker, and facilitates classroom volunteers. The Board, through PCVS provides one full time teacher, occasional part-time instructors for special courses, covers part of the salary of the child and youth worker, and provides materials and supplies. All core curriculum courses are offered at Carriage House, as well as a selection of electives. The Carriage House provides current and former residents of YES with a workable way of staying in school and working towards a high school diploma.</p> <p>This is a unique partnership within the community and the Board. To re-establish a similar relationship with another school would take considerable effort and time. The physical proximity of PCVS to the Carriage House is convenient, both for administration of the program and for Carriage House teachers, who are in fact PCVS teachers. The culture at PCVS is perhaps a little more similar and a little more accepting of those students at Carriage House, and is considered as less threatening and more welcoming.</p> <p>Janet Wylie - you indicated that 167 students completed 235.5 high school credits - were all credits granted through PCVS?</p> <p>Denise Severin -Yes, it is essentially a classroom of PCVS.</p>		
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<p>4. Public Delegations (cont'd) 4.1 Jean Greig - Youth Emergency Shelter (cont'd)</p>	<p>Keith Riel - What is the cost to run this program?</p> <p>Jean Greig - Unsure, however, the program does run at a slight loss, but is considered a very important program.</p> <p>Denise Severin - The Board provides a full-time teacher and classroom support worker, but does not pay rent.</p> <p>Lori Quinlan - Do students work on correspondence type courses or traditional courses?</p> <p>Jean Greig - The students work on their own with their teacher on an agreed number of hours per day.</p> <p>Margaret Marchen - Do students from the Carriage House have the opportunity to participate in PCVS activities?</p> <p>Denise Severin - Students from Carriage House can participate in PCVS activities when it is suitable. These students do get mainstream credits and carry student cards from PCVS as well as use the facility.</p> <p>Keith Riel - Are the students from Carriage House tested to find out what learning level they are at? Are they full time students at PCVS?</p> <p>Jean Greig -No, the students are not full time and are not tested to find out what learning level they are at. These students actually work out a schedule with their teacher at Carriage House and make their way through credits as they are able to.</p> <p>Eileen Madder - If the program was moved, do you have a sense from other communities as to what has happened?</p> <p>Jean Greig - The Youth Emergency Service would build another relationship with another school, however, because of the cultural accessibility of PCVS and the proximity it is a convenient association.</p>		
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<p>4. Public Delegations (cont'd) 4.2 John Ringereide - Individual</p>	<p>John Ringereide introduced himself as a retired Principal from KPRDSB. He advised that he served as Vice-principal at Campbellford DHS and Courtice SS, and was Principal at Thomas A. Stewart SS and Kenner CVI.</p> <p>John offered his insights into the facilities at TASSS, and reviewed the various recent renovations, as well as the numerous types of classrooms and programs offered at TASSS. With declining enrolment over the past few years, TASSS has the capacity to increase in enrollment at a very low cost and without the need for further refurbishment. The specialized spaces for use in the Arts, Special Education, Technology and Sports are outstanding at TASSS and can be easily expanded.</p> <p>One of the advantages of TASSS from the point of view of a Principal is that its more isolated location and exceptional campus lends itself to students remaining on school property during the lunch hour.</p> <p>The property boasts numerous playing fields and easy access to the river and it environs. There is also a beach volleyball court and two tennis courts as well as a dug out. As a recreational space during breaks, such as lunch hour, and as instructional space in the areas of Athletics, Technology (Horticulture), Outdoor Education and Science, the campus of this school is without compare.</p> <p>TASSS has a very open and inclusive culture, where students and staff look out for each other and respect differences.</p> <p>Keith Riel -Your theory is that two schools can be combined into TASSS?</p>		
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<p>4. Public Delegations (cont'd)                  4.2 John Ringereide - Individual (cont'd)</p>	<p>John Ringereide - If one school must be closed, TASSS does have the capacity to absorb many more students.</p> <p>Andrew Pyle - Given the dollars that have been spent over the last few years, why was an elevator not installed?</p> <p>John Ringereide - The problem is one of cost. The cost was prohibitive, however there was, at one time, an offer to install an elevator at the cost of \$10,000 to \$20,000.</p> <p>Kim Whiteside - What is the student capacity of the north and south wing?</p> <p>John Ringereide - 1000 in North wing and 600 in south wing.</p> <p>Margaret Marchen - The On the Ground Capacity in the Data Collection Reports indicates 1290, however, you are saying 1600 - can you explain the difference?</p> <p>John Ringereide - It had been up to that level at one time, and the 1300 number would be closer.</p> <p>Don Blair clarified that the On The Ground Capacity is rated at 1290 students by the Ministry of Education.</p>		
<p>4. Public Delegations - Written Submissions</p>	<p>Don Blair asked Committee members if there were any questions of clarification on any of the written submissions. There were none.</p>		

<p>4. Public Delegations - Unannounced Speakers</p>	<p><b>Roy Brady</b> - PCVS graduate - It is quite sad that this process has to go on because it leads to the loss of community schools and it is sad that it is a competition between the schools. This issue should become a provincial issue by going to local MPP. The changes made to education by the Government gives no flexibility to the communities. Roy recommended that the students organize marches every Friday and that parents should join them. This issue must be taken to the MPP and then the Provincial government. Slow down this process to let the people of this community do their work.</p> <p><b>Jim Jones</b> - PCVS graduate - Jim advised that he had been to two other "fights" where the School Board tried to close PCVS and it "looks like the Board is at it again." He stated that the School Board always seems to pick on the smaller schools. Jim stated that teachers don't have time to help students if they have large classes. The downtown core is a great place for PCVS. PCVS students feel more at home here than at other schools where they are persecuted.</p> <p>Janet Wylie - Are you saying the PCVS has smaller class sizes?</p> <p>Jim Jones - No, but PCVS is a smaller school where teachers can spend more time with students.</p> <p>Don Blair - For clarification, class sizes are determined by collective agreements and there are no classes of 40 or 50 students unless in a credit setting such as music repertoire (e.g. band).</p>		
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<p>4. Public Delegations - Unannounced Speakers (cont'd)</p>	<p><b>Victoria Pyle</b> - PCVS student - Victoria advised that she had put together a presentation for the last meeting at Adam Scott, and due to the fact that list of speakers was full, she was unable to present. Victoria advised that the presentation was a video of PCVS students interviewing local business owners of the downtown core, and asking for their thoughts on having PCVS in their community. Collectively, the responses were "the removal of PCVS from the community would tarnish the economy of the downtown businesses."</p> <p>Bob Gallagher - 54 business were surveyed and are involved as co-op placements.</p> <p><b>Melody Thomas</b> - PCVS graduate - Melody advised that she now attends the University of Toronto and strongly supports any decision to keep PCVS open. She advised that if it were not for the programs available at PCVS she may not have graduated and had the opportunities that she did. The Poverty Intervention program provided her assistance in paying the high fees associated with some of the courses that she required. The program also assisted her by providing food when she was supporting herself in Grade 12. Melody is now completing her 3<sup>rd</sup> year at the University of Toronto. As a homeless youth, it is easier to get to a school in close proximity to a shelter.</p> <p><b>Sandy Bruce</b> - mother of 5 - Sandy advised that she has experienced 4 area high schools and in her opinion, PCVS is incredible. Children can take that stepping stone in diversity at PCVS. She advised that having been exposed to other high schools, there is something about PCVS that demands respect the moment one walks through the door. She spoke about walking into the school and feeling respected. PCVS students are ambassadors to this Board.</p> <p>Keith Riel - Did you have a choice of what school you wanted your children to attend?</p> <p>Sandy Bruce - Three of her children came to PCVS for the Integrated Arts Program.</p>		
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<p>4. Public Delegations - Unannounced Speakers (cont'd)</p>	<p><b>Maryann Marset</b> - Individual - Unfortunately, the population in Peterborough is declining and is affecting the schools. Maryanne stated that taking students out of one school and putting them in another school is going to hurt these kids - to take these kids out of their schools and put them in schools that they were pitted against is not a good thing for these students. She advised that PCVS should not be closed because PCVS students are taught to speak from the heart and how to write a speech and that it is alright to be different at PCVS. Maryann recommended that no schools close in Peterborough because space is a commodity in this city.</p> <p><b>Anne-Marie Loiselle</b> - parent and teacher - The issue of accessibility has been greatly discussed and it is the responsibility of any school board to offer accessibility. Anne-Marie stated that there is another group that is just a vulnerable - homosexuals and it is her opinion that the school board cannot ignore that population. She stated that if the school board closed PCVS it would be a huge set back.</p> <p>Lori Quinlan - Do you believe that PCVS is the only school that has gay and lesbian students?</p> <p>Anne-Marie - No it is not the only school, however students come to PCVS after having experienced issues at other schools and are fully accepted at PCVS.</p>		
<p>5. Discussion of Potential Scenarios</p>	<p>Don Blair posted the potential scenarios on a screen for the Committee to review.</p> <p>Margaret Marchen - the numbers provided earlier do not match the numbers in the scenarios. Is there any reason for this?</p> <p>Don Blair - Suggested that the Committee review each of the scenarios and speak to the specifics of each scenario.</p>		

<p>5. Discussion of Potential Scenarios (cont'd)</p>	<p>Roy Wilfong - Clarification - the Board of Trustees did not make up these scenarios.</p> <p>Don Blair - Clarification - The scenarios were created by Senior Administration.</p> <p>Scenario A - Close Adam Scott CVI and Adam Scott Intermediate Scenario B - Close Kenner CVI and Kenner Int. School Scenario C - Close PCVS effective September 2012 Scenario D - Close TASSS effective September 2012 Scenario E - Leave ASCVI, KCVI, PCVS and TASSS open (status quo)</p> <p>Don Blair reviewed the Pros and Cons of each of the Scenarios along with the additional suggestions by Committee members. Each Committee member that had submitted a suggestion or revision was asked to speak to it. Final revisions were made and agreed to.</p> <p>There was some discussion with respect to a Ministry Audit of the schools. John Lawrence, Superintendent of Education: Business and Corporate Services, advised that the Ministry is in the process of updating the 2004 audits and the cost of replacing schools. Those updates will be available in another year or so.</p> <p>There was some discussion regarding the Appraisal Reports for each of the four secondary schools. The Committee was advised that any proceeds from the sale of property would come back to the Board.</p> <p>After a lengthy review of the five Scenarios, the Committee agreed that the important factor was programming available for students. If the enrolments are limited, students are not going to get the programming required making it extremely difficult for students to successfully graduate.</p> <p>At 10:19 p.m., Bob Gallagher moved and Eileen Madder seconded that the ARC recess to May 17, 2011 from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.; respecting the timing of the Board of Trustees' meeting on May 26, 2011; and recognizing that the ARC has had approximately 14 ½ hours of feedback, information and public consultation and approximately 2 ½ hours of group work and deliberation. The Chair ruled the motion out of order.</p>		
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<p>5. Discussion of Potential Scenarios (cont'd)</p>	<p>There was some discussion about Board Policy BA-1.2 - Pupil Accommodation Review - School Closure-Consolidation. It was agreed that a recommendation should be put forth that the policy be revisited for possible revisions to the mandate of a maximum of four meetings. Don Blair reiterated that the Committee is mandated by the current Board Policy and that there would be a maximum of four Accommodation Review meetings, and that the work of this Committee would be done at the conclusion of this meeting.</p> <p>By sending recommendations to the Board, it sends a strong message to the Trustees about needing quality secondary programming.</p>		
<p>6. Committee Recommendations</p>	<p>After a lengthy discussion the following recommendations were voted on by reaching a consensus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that the four secondary schools in the City of Peterborough be consolidated into three secondary schools.</li> <li>• that a closure of a secondary school be the last resort in order to address programming issues.</li> <li>• that, if a school were to close and be sold, the monies from the sale would be distributed proportionately based on enrolments among the three schools.</li> <li>• that the Board review its policies and procedures which govern the organizational structure and proceeds of Accommodation Review Committees.</li> </ul> <p>Don Blair thanked the Committee for all their hard work and thanked the schools for hosting each of the meetings.</p>		
<p>8. Adjournment</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 p.m.</p>		