

KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**ARMOUR HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL AND KING GEORGE PUBLIC SCHOOL
ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 6:30 pm
Armour Heights Public School – Gymnasium
245 McFarlane Street, Peterborough, Ontario

MINUTES

PRESENT: Superintendent Peter Mangold (Co-Chairperson), Superintendent Joe Tompkins (Co-Chairperson), Trustee Wayne Bonner, Trustee Sarah Bobka, Trustee Rose Kitney, Marguerite Masterson (Principal, Armour Heights Public School), Jodi Whetung (Principal, King George Public School), Jaime Muldoon (Teacher, Armour Heights Public School), Nicola Jennings (Teacher, King George Public School), Chantelle Clarke (School Council, Armour Heights Public School), Geoff Barnes (School Council, King George Public School), Ziysah Von Bieberstein (School Council, King George Public School), Mary-Ann Meagher (Community Member), Gary Baldwin (Ashburnham Ward Councillor, City of Peterborough), Keith Riel (Ashburnham Ward Councillor, City of Peterborough), Dean MacDonald (Senior Manager, Planning and Pupil Accommodation), and Pat Bjorndahl (Administrative Assistant)

REGRETS: Nil

1. Welcome and Introductions

Co-chairperson Peter Mangold called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm and welcomed everyone. The committee members identified themselves. Cathy Abraham, Chairperson of the Board, and Dean MacDonald, Senior Manager, Planning and Pupil Accommodation were also introduced.

2. Overview and Adoption of Agenda

An overview of the agenda for tonight's meeting and the meeting procedures were reviewed by Co-chairperson Mangold. There will be two public consultation meetings and two working meetings for the committee. There are no announced delegations for tonight's meeting. Delegates must apply at least nine calendar days prior to a meeting and will be provided up to 10 minutes for their presentation. A "Request to Present" form is posted on the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPR) website. Unannounced delegations will be provided with three minutes to present this evening. There is a clip board provided on the back table to register for a presentation. Members of the public may ask questions at public meetings through an announced delegation, an unannounced delegation, or by completing and submitting a question slip. KPR website – <http://www.kprschoools.ca/>.

3. Adoption of Minutes – Wednesday, November 4, 2015

The minutes from the Armour Heights Public School and King George Public School Accommodation Review Committee's Orientation meeting held on November 4, 2015 were approved with no revisions or additions.

4. Timelines and Processes

The Orientation meeting for the accommodation review committee was held on November 4, 2015. Working meetings are designed for the committee to work in a smaller setting. Delegations will not be heard at the working meetings, but these meetings are open for the public to listen if interested. Live streaming will be provided to another room for members of the public during the working meetings. The working meetings are effective for frank and open discussions.

Future meeting dates commence at 6:30 pm.

- November 24, 2015 – Working Meeting – Armour Heights Public School
- December 15, 2015 – Working Meeting – King George Public School
- January 26, 2016 – 2nd Accommodation Review Committee Meeting for public input

Registration for delegations for the January 26, 2016 public meeting are due no later than January 18, 2016. The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board's website lists all of the accommodation review information including background, school profiles, delegation information, agendas, and minutes. A pad for questions is available and the questions will be answered on the KPR website and will be responded to at the next meeting. This committee encourages public input for this accommodation review process.

Following the January 26, 2016 accommodation review meeting, the Accommodation Report will be placed on the KPR website by Wednesday, February 20, 2016. Public delegation opportunities will be available at the Board meeting on Thursday, February 25, 2016 and the Board on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 when the final staff report with feedback compiled from public delegations will be presented. The Board of Trustees will make a decision on Tuesday, March 29, 2016.

5. Committee Meeting:

5.1 Background and Initial Board Report

There is declining enrolment across KPR and the province. The Board's Long Term Accommodation Report is a very thorough plan which reviewed all elementary and secondary schools. We need to ensure that our school buildings provide optimum physical learning environments to complement the academic, social, and emotional learning environment. Potential changes are largely as a result of the very significant decline in

enrolment that we have experienced. In the last ten years KPR has declined by over 7,000 students.

The Long Term Accommodation Plan is a plan only. No decisions have been made on any of the possible recommendations. The recommended option from the initial staff report to provide the optimal learning environment for students attending King George Public School and Armour Heights Public School is to consolidate students from both schools at the King George site. Refurbishing and building an environmentally friendly addition at the King George site, while maintaining the historical integrity of the building would provide an improved facility for students within the area. Alternatively, building a new school at the King George site could be considered for this consolidation.

There are five criteria from the Ministry of Education and in Board Policy on Pupil Accommodation Review: School Closure/Consolidation:

- Underutilized
- Overcrowded
- Operating/Maintenance Costs
- Program Viability
- Extenuating Circumstances (i.e. school is destroyed by a fire or other catastrophe, school is unusable due to environmental or health hazard)

One criteria must be met for consideration of review. Armour Heights Public School and King George Public School meet two criteria – underutilized and operating/ maintenance costs. Over time significant amounts of money needs to be invested for upgrades in the schools.

This is an opportunity for an addition or to build a new school. The role of the community is to provide ideas and input during public meetings. Groups may request a meeting with Board staff to present an option for consideration. Ideas may be contributed through the KPR website.

The Accommodation Review Committee will consider Board information, data and all options presented and initiated by the committee. The Accommodation Review Committee will comment on the staff's initial recommendation and present additional options for consideration by staff and the Board of Trustees.

5.2 Mandate

Co-chairperson Joe Tompkins outlined the committee's mandate. The mandate of the Armour Heights Public School and King George Public School Accommodation Review committee is to ensure that the Board of Trustees is provided with all of the appropriate and necessary information to make a decision in the best interest of students regarding staff accommodation recommendations. The information will inform the final staff report and the subsequent decision by the Board of Trustees.

Specifically, it is the committee's mandate to:

- Act as an official conduit of information shared between the school board and the school communities.
- Provide feedback on the impact of consolidating the school populations of both Armour Heights Public School in one building on the King George Public Schools site.
- Comment on the initial staff report and recommendations and consider providing other accommodation options with supporting rationale.

5.3 Overview of Guidelines, Policy, Procedures

New Ministry of Education Guidelines were released in March 2015. The KPR Policy was updated in September 2015 to reflect new provincial guidelines.

Long Term Accommodation Policy changes:

- Initial staff report provides a recommended option.
- Accommodation Review Committee will act as a conduit of information between school board and school communities.
- Accommodation Review Committee does not have to reach consensus.
- Accommodation Review Committee may develop other options and must include supporting rationale.
- Maximum three public meetings.
- Ensure senior staff have the information required for the final staff report to support the Board of Trustees in making their final decision.
- Municipalities and other community partners may meet with board staff before or during the accommodation review.
- School Information Profiles will be developed by board staff of the accommodation review.

The final staff report will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the conclusion of the pupil accommodation review process. The report will include a Community Consultation section. It will provide a recommended option(s) including a proposed accommodation plan and a timeline for implementation.

5.4 Enrolment Statistics and Trends

Dean MacDonald, Senior Manager, Planning and Pupil Accommodation, provided background information enrolment statistics and trends.

The breakdown of the 2014-2015 population of school aged children for the consolidated Armour Heights Public School and King George Public School catchment area are:

• Armour Heights PS/King George PS	431
• Attending other KPR schools	150
• Attending other school boards	<u>662</u>
Total	1,243

Projected enrolments for Armour Heights Public School and King George Public School were provided from 2015 to 2024. Historical enrolment data was shared for the two schools for the school years 2000 to 2015. Projected enrolments are based on the statistical data in the areas of birth, development/migration, and market share. Details of each area were highlighted. Best estimates are based on trends.

5.5 School Information Profiles

Marguerite Masterson, Principal, Armour Heights Public School provided an overview of Armour Heights Public School's Instructional Profile. The school has a K-8 learning environment with staff comprised of one Principal, 14 teachers, two Early Childhood Educators, support staff including a custodian and secretary. The school has 10 homerooms, one dedicated French room, one dedicated Special Education Resource room, one computer lab, one Library, and one gymnasium. There are two Kindergarten rooms with one room being smaller in size. The school welcomes outside guests and offers many programmes (i.e. Future Aces Program, Trent University student teachers and reading tutors, Big Brother and Big Sisters, Blessings in a Backpack, Lunch and Learning Buddies, Nutrition Program). Staff provide many extra-curricular activities for the students (i.e. sports teams, Student Council, chess, robotics, intermediate band, safety patrollers).

Jodi Whetung, Principal, King George Public School, highlighted features of the beautiful old building and the 100th anniversary celebration. The school has a K-6 learning environment with 15 teachers, three Early Childhood Educators, support staff including one custodian and one secretary. The school has 11 classrooms, one computer lab, one library, one gymnasium, one dedicated French room, and a Before and After School program run in two classrooms. Mark Street United Church is involved in the school's breakfast and nutrition programmes with the assistance of the school's Educational Assistants. The school is partnered with Fleming College and an environment partnership with Trent University and the City of Peterborough. There is a strong focus on the environment at the school. Similar sports and programmes offered at Armour Heights Public School are also offered at King George Public School.

Dean MacDonald provided overviews of the schools for site acreage, pupil places, gross floor area, construction dates and additions, and facility improvements from 2006 to 2011. The aerial views of the schools show the steep grounds at Armour Heights Public School and the steep grade at King George Public School.

The facility condition assessment for Armour Heights Public School and King George Public School were explained. The Ministry of Education commissioned facility inspections for all schools in the province to be conducted over a five year period by an independent third party. To calculate a Facility Condition Index (FCI) for a building, divide the total estimated

cost to complete deferred maintenance projects for the building by its estimated replacement value. The lower the FCI, the lower the need for remedial or renewal funding relative to the facility's value. For example, an FCI of 0.1 signifies a 10 percent deficiency, which is generally considered low, and an FCI of 0.7 means that a building needs extensive repairs or replacement.

Questions and comments from the committee:

Wayne Bonner – would accessibility requirements be above the estimates?

Dean MacDonald – yes.

Chantelle Clarke – the costs for renovations?

Dean MacDonald – costs for renovations will be discussed at the next meeting. A major addition to an existing building would have to be brought up to code.

Chantelle Clarke – to meet the needs of projected enrolments could we factor in the French Immersion programme? How would the addition be funded?

Chantelle Clarke – an estimate of a school for 550 students or add an addition for 650?

Dean MacDonald – this will be reviewed. Any addition brings challenges i.e. architectural challenges with the slope.

Keith Riel – what are the catchment areas for Armour Heights PS and King George PS?

Peter Mangold – maps are included in the committee members' binders. The Armour Heights Public School boundary for Grades 7 and 8 encompasses the entire King George Public School boundary.

Keith Riel – with low enrolment of students at Lakefield District Secondary School and 900 students at Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School being the largest facility is there a possibility of Grades 7 and 8 students moving to Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School?

Peter Mangold – the intention for a school in East City is a JK-8 facility with Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School being a Grade 9-12 school. Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School has three feeder schools and the Integrated Arts programme.

Gary Baldwin – with the expected \$13 M for renovations to two schools or \$12 M for a new school not on a level site, will there be additional costs for building at the King George site? A new school would be excellent for the City with the present site usage.

Dean MacDonald – there will be additional costs due to the slope on the King George site.

Gary Baldwin – what is the process for selling a school?

Dean MacDonald – in general, a school for sale would be made available to other school boards and municipalities first and if the school is still available it will be listed for fair market value.

Gary Baldwin – what are the timelines for a new school?

Dean MacDonald – this process will be completed in March and if recommendation to build a new school approximately 1 year to 18 months for approvals, construction would commence and be completed in four years.

Chantelle Clarke – what is fair market value?

Dean MacDonald – we would obtain an appraisal of the building. Often the value of the land is more than the value of the building.

Rose Kitney – the recommendation speaks to keeping integrity of the existing building and this means additional costs.

Dean MacDonald – there will be complications of building while students are attending school. This information will be brought forward to a working meeting.

Rose Kitney – what would be the cost of an addition for Armour Heights Public School?

Dean MacDonald – this is not feasible for Armour Heights Public School due to the size of the school property.

Chantelle Clarke – has there been consideration of a third site for building on more level ground?

Dean MacDonald – land availability could possibly be examined by the committee.

Rose Kitney – I believe the preference of this community is to have the location of a school in the present area opposed to outside sites. There are many walkers to the present schools.

Ziysah Von Bieberstein – for thinking outside of the box about Dean's presentation regarding students attending the Catholic school board and for French Immersion could we look at examining the numbers?

Peter Mangold – this is open for discussion by the committee over the next two months. Administration has discussed the impact on how these options will impact other schools. Having French Immersion at this site will impact enrolment at different schools within the board. Dean MacDonald is preparing school scenarios on numbers and sizes which he will share in two weeks with the committee.

6. Announced Delegations

Nil.

7. Unannounced Delegation

Tina Barnes, Parent, King George Public School presented on the importance of the school and noted:

- the attraction of King George Public School is proximity to the forest
- an outdoor education facility for arts and environmental awareness may attract students to King George Public School
- sitting all day for students is difficult
- being outdoors encourages exploring the environment

Questions and comments from the committee:

Dean MacDonald – open spaces and opportunities are being examined.

Ziysah Von Bieberstein – we had a visioning committee at King George Public School last year. Outdoor education is popular for students and staff at King George Public School.

Rose Kitney – I attended a conference session in early July in Saskatoon entitled “Gumboots and Bear Bangers” from the NEST (Nature Education for Sustainable Today's and Tomorrow's) program, Davis Bay, British Columbia. This was very interesting.

Keith Riel – people don't realize the great area we live in and the amenities (i.e. Armour Hill, Ecology Park, sports fields, potential Canoe Museum location). There is uniqueness in this catchment area.

Nicola Jennings – for mental and physical well-being, students don't have an appreciation of the outdoors. This is an opportunity to do something special.

Tina Barnes – the future school could possibly focus on outdoor education.

Chantelle Clarke – how will a new programme be implemented? Would the Principal spear head the program? Could these considerations be made with an addition?

Peter Mangold – the final staff report could include a recommendation for the creation of an outdoor classroom. Millbrook/South Cavan Public School presently is building an outdoor classroom. A focus on environmental programmes could be worked into the plan. There needs to be champions from the school and staff. King George Public School is already geared to outdoor education.

Chantelle Clarke – could this be a board specialized programme? We could set precedence.

Peter Mangold – staff visited two or three schools sites in other school boards with specialized programmes. These were not found to be superior to present programmes.

Chantelle Clarke – Tina Barnes' vision is to initiate new programming.

Ziyah Von Bierberstein – dual benefits for students and draw students to KPR. This is an opportunity to shine across the country.

8. Preparation for Next Meeting

Co-chairperson Peter Mangold expressed appreciation for the information and options shared tonight. At the next meeting, an in-depth discussion of possible options will take place.

Rose Kitney – request for historical information of the existing King George Public School for the committee to consider for maintaining the integrity of the existing school with an addition.

Keith Riel – why are students attending other school boards?

Chantelle Clarke – is it possible to have maps of different schools that the students are attending outside of the catchment area?

Dean MacDonald – we don't have access to addresses of students who don't attend our schools. There is only generalization for why families chose one school board over another. New schools do draw students.

Zisyah Von Bieberstein – is research available?

Peter Mangold – qualitative information indicates entry point at Junior Kindergarten is a focus.

Nicola Jennings – would the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Newcastle Catholic District School Board have the data?

Peter Mangold – agenda items will include reviewing options, information on why students chose different school boards (qualitative), and a discussion regarding French Immersion.

Jodi Whetung – day care facilities may assist with enrolment.

Peter Mangold – day care facilities may bring students.

Dean MacDonald – new schools add day care facilities. These costs are funded through the Ministry of Education.

Co-chairperson Peter Mangold confirmed that the next meeting is a working meeting on November 24, 2015 at Armour Heights Public School. Answers to questions from the audience will be placed on the website as soon as they are completed. The working meeting will be live streamed to another room. Any questions in the interim may be emailed to Peter Mangold. There are links to all data on the KPR website. Also, an email link for questions is available on the website.

9. Future Meetings:

Tuesday, November 24, 2015, 6:30 pm – Working Meeting

Tuesday, December 15, 2015, 6:30 pm – Working Meeting

Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 6:30 pm – 2nd Accommodation Review Committee Meeting

10. Adjournment – 8:20 pm