

ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

St. Mary Catholic School, Blenheim

Chair: Dr. Frank Leddy, Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretaries: Niki Ritchie & Cathy Calvert

TIME	ITEM
7:00 p.m.	<p>Opening Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Frank Leddy, Superintendent of Education opened the fourth meeting of the Blenheim ARC with prayer.
7:03 p.m.	<p>Welcome/Opening Remarks: Chair/Superintendent of Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Frank Leddy, Superintendent of Education introduced himself as the Chair of the meeting and acknowledged the Trustees and Board Staff in attendance.
7:05 p.m.	<p>Rules of Order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An agenda for each meeting will be followed and will be used for order in the meeting. ▪ All meetings will be public and all meeting notes will be posted on the board website. ▪ The final decision rests with the elected Trustees who will consider your recommendation and any recommendations from the Director of Education at the June Board meeting. ▪ It is a prerequisite of the appeal process that those wishing to appeal must demonstrate that they have attended meetings. ▪ Notes, and not minutes, will be taken by two recording secretaries and will be placed on the website shortly after the meeting. ▪ A maximum of one hour will be devoted to the question period.
7:10 p.m.	<p>Presentation of the March 18, 2008 notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The notes of the March 18, 2008 meeting were presented by the Chair. The Chair drew attention on page 2 to the School Valuation Instrument. It was noted that the ARC evaluated the two schools with St. Anne receiving an overall value of 88% and St. Mary receiving 65%. ▪ The Chair highlighted, on page 2 and continuing on page 3, that several board staff presented information pertaining to the proposed construction at St. Anne, the sidewalks along Snow Avenue, the playground equipment and the boundary adjustment along the south part of Kent Bridge Road. <p>Questions arising from the notes of the previous meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None
7:15 p.m.	<p>Presentation by the Chair – School Valuation DRAFT ARC Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A draft copy of the report was distributed to all ARC members for their review and members were encouraged to make suggestions for improvement. ▪ All of the materials that have been provided to the ARC and posted on our website, including reports from the administration, PowerPoint presentations and the notes from the four public meetings, will be included in a binder along with this report. ▪ The Chair summarized the report to the ARC and drew their attention to the summary of key information, which outlined the

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capacity, enrolment, number of classrooms, age of the buildings and boundaries of both schools.

Confirmation of the written recommendation

PRIMARY RECOMMENDATION:

- The Accommodation Review Committee recommends that the St. Anne and St. Mary school communities be consolidated at the St. Anne site and that the St. Mary site be closed.
- It is further recommended that the St. Clair Catholic District School Board construct a small addition at the St. Anne site to meet the accommodation needs for consolidating the two schools and to replicate the Best Start facility at St. Anne.

SECONDARY RECOMMENDATIONS:

During the four public meetings, the ARC had the opportunity to hear several presentations from school board staff, to ask questions, request further information and to reflect on the information they received. Based upon this discussion, the ARC makes the following recommendations, with the view towards the successful implementation of its primary recommendation:

- The ARC recommends that as part of the renewal of St. Anne that the building's HVAC system be upgraded so that air conditioning can be provided throughout the building.
- The ARC recommends that the Best Start facility, currently at St. Mary, be replicated at the St. Anne site. It further recommends that the Board consult with the Best Start operator in the design of the new facility. Further that the Board undertake to move or replace the existing playground equipment.
- The ARC recommends that all other playground equipment and all other "creative playgrounds" currently at St. Mary either be moved or replicated at the St. Anne site.
- Preliminary drawings from the Board showed a four classroom addition would address Best Start and the accommodation needs of moving the St. Mary students to St. Anne. This would be adequate for accommodation needs beginning in September 2009. Thus, the ARC recommends that the consolidation occur at the start of the 2009-2010 school year.
- Concerns were expressed regarding sidewalks and the safe arrival and dismissal of students. The ARC understands that the Board will revisit parking, bus loading zones and drop off and pick up zones as part of its normal procedures. The municipality has been notified of the concern regarding sidewalks which is a municipal responsibility.
- The ARC recommends that the eastern boundary of the Blenheim Catholic schools between St. Michael Catholic School in Ridgetown be resolved such that the Mull Road boundary between Brush Line and New Scotland Line be extended into the Blenheim boundary area up to, but excluding Kent Bridge Road.

Questions from ARC

QUESTION:

Can a recommendation for the addition of air conditioning to classrooms and the gymnasium be added to the report?

ANSWER:

The Chair will add this to the secondary recommendations.

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	<p><u>QUESTION:</u> Can it also be added that the playground equipment for the primary students be moved to St. Anne's site?</p> <p><u>ANSWER:</u> The Chair will add this to the secondary recommendations.</p> <p><u>QUESTION:</u> New playground equipment for older students has been discussed; can this be added to the report?</p> <p><u>ANSWER:</u> The Chair will add recommendations regarding equipment which cannot be moved and new equipment which may be purchased.</p> <p><u>QUESTION:</u> Can the creative playground equipment currently at St. Mary be added to the St. Anne site?</p> <p><u>ANSWER:</u> The Chair will add a recommendation that the creative playground be added to the St. Anne site.</p> <p><u>QUESTION:</u> Is it possible to add a shelter or natural shade to the playground at St. Anne?</p> <p><u>ANSWER:</u> The Best Start areas are to have natural shade provided by the board and there should also be funding from the municipality to provide this. The board is looking at providing some natural source of shade for the playground at the St. Anne site as well.</p> <p><u>QUESTION:</u> Can the boundary mirror the public board?</p> <p><u>ANSWER:</u> The Chair will add that the ARC recommends that the eastern boundary between the Blenheim Catholic school and St. Michael Catholic School, Ridgetown be resolved such that the Mull Road boundary between Brush Line and New Scotland Line be extended into the Blenheim boundary area up to, but excluding Kent Bridge Road.</p> <p>Confirmation of the Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The amended report will now be the Accommodation Review Committee's final report containing our recommendation to the Board of Trustees. ▪ The Chair then asked if the ARC was willing to ratify the report as amended. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
7:25 p.m.	<p>QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR:</p> <p><u>QUESTION:</u></p>

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	<p>What is the board doing to address the safe arrival of students given the lack of sidewalks on Snow Avenue?</p> <p><u>ANSWER:</u> The municipality is responsible for sidewalks along Snow Avenue and we have notified them about our concerns. The safety of students is paramount and the board will address drop off zones for buses and cars as part of its normal operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Chair thanked everyone for their participation. The Chair of the Board, Anita Labadie, on behalf of the Board thanked the members of the ARC for their invaluable input. ▪ The Chair closed the meeting with the Our Father. ▪ The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.
	<p>Future Board Meeting Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, June 10, 2008 – 6:00 p.m. • Tuesday, June 17, 2008 – 6:00 p.m. • Tuesday, June 24, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.