

ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, March 18, 2008

St. Mary Catholic School, Blenheim

Chair: Dr. Frank Leddy, Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretaries: Niki Ritchie & Joanne Cincurak

TIME	ITEM
7:05 p.m.	<p>Opening Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Frank Leddy, Superintendent of Education opened the third meeting of the Blenheim ARC with prayer.
7:07 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.
7:10 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 Chair's role is to ensure that the agenda is followed, Rules of Order are met and to clarify any points. ▪ 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 meetings. ▪ It is a prerequisite of the appeal process that those wishing to appeal must demonstrate that they have attended meetings. ▪ A maximum of one hour will be devoted to the question period, if questions remain at the conclusion of the meeting. ▪ Notes, and not minutes, will be taken by two recording secretaries and will be placed on the Board website shortly after the meeting. <p>Presentation of the February 19, 2008 notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The notes of the February 19, 2008 meeting were presented by the Chair. The Chair drew attention on page 2 to the central question of how many schools are needed in Blenheim and that the ARC has made the suggestion that St. Anne would be the desirable location for the school in Blenheim and that St. Mary should be closed. ▪ The Chair highlighted on page 3 that there were several issues that were raised as needing resolution and or clarification. Specifically, issues raised that require further discussion included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Sidewalks along Snow Avenue ➢ Best Start Program at St. Anne ➢ Playground Equipment ➢ Air Conditioning <p>Questions arising from the notes of the previous meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None
7:15 p.m.	<p>Discussion of the School Valuation Instrument</p> <p>The ARC toured both St. Mary and St. Anne on February 19 and based upon their observations gave the following values:</p>

ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, March 18, 2008

St. Mary Catholic School, Blenheim

Chair: Dr. Frank Leddy, Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretaries: Niki Ritchie & Joanne Cincurak

	<p>St. Anne Catholic School <u>Rating by the ARC</u> Value to the Student – 40 Value to the School Board – 22 Value to the Community – 18 Value to the Local Economy – 8 Overall Rating – 88%</p> <p>St. Mary Catholic School <u>Rating by the ARC</u> Value to the Student – 35 Value to the School Board – 10 Value to the Community – 12 Value to the Local Economy – 8 Overall Rating – 65%</p> <p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School grounds are more suitable at St. Anne ▪ St. Anne is a barrier-free facility ▪ St. Anne has more parking available ▪ Community uses ball diamonds at St. Anne ▪ St. Mary does not provide infant care
<p>7:25 p.m.</p>	<p>Presentation of the information requested by the ARC</p> <p>Architect’s Drawings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drawings presented by Bruce Hannah were preliminary/conceptual showing 2 additional regular classrooms and 2 classrooms for Best Start. <p>Questions/Concerns arising from the Architect’s Drawings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A question was raised about the fate of the French Immersion program in Blenheim. The Chair explained that the registration numbers are holding and the program is viable. Parents should continue to encourage registrations. ▪ Concern about the number of split classrooms was raised and the Chair explained that due to declining enrolment and the ministry cap on primary class sizes, split classes would be more and more common. This is a provincial phenomenon and one not particular to St. Clair. <p>Air Conditioning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Facilities Services Department is exploring having the gymnasium at St. Anne air conditioned.

ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, March 18, 2008

St. Mary Catholic School, Blenheim

Chair: Dr. Frank Leddy, Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretaries: Niki Ritchie & Joanne Cincurak

- Preliminary research on the cost reveals that it is indeed feasible.
- Each classroom will have its own individual climate control unit.

Sidewalks on Snow Avenue

- The municipality has expressed that they are not looking at adding sidewalks at the moment. However, in 2009 they intend to split the cost with the property/home owners fifty/fifty.
- Contact has been made with the municipality regarding sidewalks.

Playground Equipment

- Best Start equipment at St. Mary is new and there would be very little expense to relocate it. Approximate cost to move and install equipment was quoted at \$6500.00.
- Some of the older structures are not movable due to their age and the overall condition of the equipment.

Boundary

- A map of the Blenheim Boundary Review Area was explained and the boundaries affected were outlined.
- There is an area at the southern end of Kent Bridge Road in which students could go to Blenheim instead of Ridgetown.

Questions Arising from the Presentation:

QUESTION:

The St. Anne gymnasium is smaller than St. Mary's; will St. Anne's be able to accommodate the additional students?

ANSWER:

Yes. The gymnasium at St. Anne is a standard size and we have other schools within our Board with the same population and the same size gymnasium.

QUESTION:

Will the pick-up and drop-off area accommodate the additional students?

ANSWER:

The Facilities and Transportation Services Departments will review the bus loading zone and drop off area to ensure maximum safety. The architectural firm the board has retained will also be looking at this issue. Parents, through the Parent Advisory Council, should be encouraged to follow the directions from school administration with respect to dropping off their children.

QUESTION:

There are only 2 classrooms being added to St. Anne. Will this accommodate the additional students?

ANSWER:

Numbers are based on the next several years and the addition of two classrooms will be sufficient for this school. In 2008-2009, 17 classrooms will be needed but by 2009-2010, 16 will be needed. Currently, St. Anne has 14 and with an additional 2, the accommodation needs will be met.

QUESTION:

Are the Best Start partners involved in the construction planning?

ANSWER:

ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, March 18, 2008

St. Mary Catholic School, Blenheim

Chair: Dr. Frank Leddy, Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretaries: Niki Ritchie & Joanne Cincurak

	The Best Start partners will indeed be involved in the construction planning.
7:50 p.m.	<p>Discussion of the format of the ARC report to the Board of Trustees</p> <p>The Chair sought the input of the ARC members regarding the report to the Board of Trustees. Some suggestions for inclusion are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Background information on why the ARC was struck? ▪ Dates, locations, topics of discussion ▪ Statement of the problem the ARC was charged with ▪ Brief summary of key information presented at the meetings ▪ School Valuation Instrument for each of the schools ▪ Statement of the recommendations ▪ Binder to be assembled of all of the reports and information distributed at each meeting ▪ The ARC will review the draft report and confirm the recommendations at the April 15, 2008 meeting
7:55 p.m.	<p>QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There were no questions. ▪ The Chair thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting with the Our Father. ▪ The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.
	<p>Future ARC Meeting Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tuesday, April 15, 2008 – 7:00 p.m. – St. Anne Catholic School, Blenheim</i>
	<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.