

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Pupil Accommodation Review Public Meeting: Manitouwadge

Wednesday, May 23, 2012
Manitouwadge High School Theatre
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

MINUTES

<i>Working Committee Members</i>	<i>In Attendance</i>	<i>Regrets</i>	<i>Absent</i>
HUNTER, Connie (<i>Counsellor, Township of Manitouwadge</i>)	x		
RAYMOND, Dave (<i>Community Representative</i>)	x		
GASCON, Ray (<i>Manitouwadge Public School Council</i>)		x	
NEWTON, Marcia (<i>Manitouwadge High School Council</i>)	x		
BOURGOIN, Jocelyn (<i>Community Representative</i>)	x		
MOFFAT, Jim (<i>Business Representative</i>)		x	

<i>Board Support Members</i>	<i>In Attendance</i>	<i>Regrets</i>	<i>Absent</i>
TSUBOUCHI, Cathy (<i>Superintendent of Business</i>)	x Teleconf		
PETRICK, Nancy (<i>Superintendent of Education</i>)	x		
CHIUPKA, Wayne (<i>Manager of Plant Services</i>)	x		
WILLCOCKS, Barbara (<i>Student Success Coordinator</i>)	x		
MOONILAL, Patricia (<i>Principal, Manitouwadge Public School</i>)	x		
MUTCH, John (<i>Principal, Manitouwadge High School</i>)	x		

1.0 Welcome

Comments of welcome were expressed to both the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) members and the large contingent (over 280 people counted) of the public attending the meeting. Public were advised that an ARC is being done in Manitouwadge in part because of declining enrolment and there is also the reality of significant underutilized space in the schools. An ARC is formed to study the situation and make recommendations to the Board. An ARC process and committee undertaking is to be done through consensus rather than by majority vote. The working committee meetings are open for public observation, while the public meetings are held for the purpose public information and to compile public feedback.

2.0 Review of Minutes of March 21, 2012

3.0 Changes or Additions to Agenda

Committee members made no changes or additions to the agenda. It was noted that minutes for review were those transcribed from March 21, 2012; the last public meeting held. The working committee minutes up to May 2 are posted on the website. The public is welcome to attend working committee meetings, but minutes of the working committee are not subject to public approval or revision.

4.0 Overview of Options

4.1 Status Quo

Everything remains the same.

There has been no feasibility study on the options; rather we are using the resources we have to work through options. The purpose of this committee is to collect information, sharing the information with the community. We will provide more information as we receive it including updates.

Financial data was handed out at meeting, noting that at the last meeting March 31st enrolment data was not yet incorporated. Updated information shows that Manitouwadge Public School (MNPS) enrolment has now dropped below 50 full-time-equivalent (FTE) students, therefore certain ministry grants would no longer be available; impacts on budget. With enrolment decline we need to decrease costs in other areas and that analysis is ongoing.

Revenue includes \$45,600 from the French Board. This is charged on a cost-recovery basis on the percentage of space they use. The board cannot run a deficit budget. To maintain status quo, but not cut staff, board moves some revenue around, for example student success funds helps with MNHS staffing.

To determine funding the average student enrolment based on October 31 and March 31 count dates are reported to the ministry and are used by them to determine grants.

4.2 7 – 12 (7/8 students move to high school)

Move Grade 7/8 students into the Manitouwadge High School (MNHS)

4.3 K – 12 (all students in one building)

Move all students into the MNHS

- As of March MNPS was below 50 FTE, but there are two new students enrolling in September
- Enrolment projections are done by reviewing past trends and we use information that is provided to us by the health unit on birth rates – we have to make a projection
- If the community grows, this data is considered, i.e., at October if the count is higher than projected we can look at increasing teaching staff to accommodate the influx.
- How will this option help us and/or possible positive impact;
 - Similar to Geraldton Composite HS and B.A. Parker PS which is now under one roof, there are operations savings to be realized.
 - JK-12 all in one facility may provide for different funding options with all students under one roof
 - Elementary school could have a separate entrance from secondary side
 - Experienced in K-12 school in Ignace is that older students protect the little ones
- What will not change and/or possible negative impact
 - No staff savings will be realized as teacher contracts would be the same even though both unions in one facility
 - Do not want our kids going to school for one course and at home with their iPod doing homework. Once they get here what will they take? Research shown coaches/teachers are the most influential people in the community. Our kids are doing well NWOSSA /OFFSA.
- Public Comments/Suggestions
 - Parents may choose to move their children to the Catholic system
 - Regardless of option selected, the 9 to 12 programming will be affected and will impact the level of education of our students, reduced academic/applied program streams and move toward e-learning
 - Will be difficult with teacher cuts to have two levels in each class, ie., how can a teacher do three different English courses?
 - Our children are being devastated by the teacher cuts ...I would take my four children out of the public system
 - E-learning is expanding, reducing the traditional classroom environment, no face-to-face help
 - Suggestion to have two shifts in one school – elementary in a.m. and secondary in p.m., however, such an arrangement would have minimal building cost savings due to heating costs. This option would also create staffing issues.

4.4 All boards within one school

- The discussion about having all boards housed in same building is one that has to be done at the "Director's" level.

4.5 Bussing of Manitouwadge High School students to Marathon

- This option was raised as an extreme concept in a brainstorming session.
- The Working Committee advised the option is off the table; the distance factor making it unacceptable to the community members.
- Other public comments on the option of bussing high school students to MRHS
 - What and/or is there accident insurance for a mishap
 - Better academic programming when MNHS bussed to MRHS does not discount other negative factors like:
 - the economic impact on our community, who will settle here if there is no high school
 - students need to stay in community for after school jobs which will be hard to have if they are on a bus

5.0 New Business

5.1 Algoma District School Board

- The Hornepayne School has a new K to 12 facility open
- This ARC committee can go and speak to them
- Their Superintendent of Education has been contact and he is willing to give us information on how it worked in his community
- Have investigated the Chapleau facility, the move of which involves bussing elementary students to high school
- We have been advised that at Chapleau, first there was dissention, but as time passed they have seen benefits
- May be another resource to explore
- Dubreuilville Catholic School is attached to public school and works well
- Wawa elementary and secondary schools are in one building

6.0 Questions for Clarification

Staffing Costs

The Staffing Report was developed as a base level staffing in order to meet our contractual obligations to Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation. The Board intends to re-examine staffing levels once grants are known (last year we put in four additional). The Board's collective agreement (CA) with teachers is higher than provincial allocation. An explanation was provided regarding the formulas and ministry factors that apply in determining base staffing numbers for the elementary and secondary panel schools. Based in part on the CA's 16:1 classroom ratio, MNHS was given extra staffing above other high schools already this year. As concerns the MNHS 2012-13 staffing proposal, the ARC process takes into account both the programming and financial piece. All high school staffing is applied the same throughout the board. As well an overview was provided regarding the ministry requirements for elementary class sizes and its implications on staffing and grade grouping.

Other Costs

Cost reductions have been applied throughout the system, including custodial staff, school budgets and board administrations and all measures and analysis will continue in order to find savings. The Plant Department has reduced electrical and heating costs by implementing LED lighting outside and energy management systems.

Special Grants

Certain grants are provided for specific purposes such as capital expenditures and are not transferrable. The Community Use of Schools funding was explained as a fund for use of school building facilities by other groups but where a cost recovery was applied to pay for the utilities and/or custodial time incurred for the duration of an outside group's use of the building, for example during a special event, or community tournament, etc.

ARC Process

Recommendation or a precedent from a past ARC is not applicable in current process. Each ARC is independent of another and is subject to the funding structures and guideline of the day. An ARC does not include an exploration of system issues as a whole, rather it concerns only the area under study.

7.0 Next Steps

- 7.1 Action: Administration to check on what the funding allocation (dollar per student) at elementary level

7.2 ARC

ARC Working Committee needs to make its decision by the end of this current fiscal year with a recommendation going to the Board December 2012.

- On June 5th the Working Committee will be meeting to discuss options
- Public welcome to attend this meeting speak to us or forward questions by email (please refer to the website)
- Information will continue to be posted on the website
- Board office can be contacted directly for minutes etc. if someone does not have access to computer
- There will be notices to public put into the paper, posted in schools, on billboards and at town council

For Information: Policy 905 ARC

- As per Policy 905 at the conclusion of the ARC's consultation, the ARC will submit its Accommodation Study Report to the Director of Education who will have the ARC's Accommodation Study Report posted on the District's website.
- The ARC will also submit its Accommodation Study Report to the Board at a special meeting of the Committee of the Whole. District staff will then undertake an analysis of the ARC's Accommodation Study Report and develop a staff-level report with recommendations which will be presented at a special meeting of the Committee of the Whole.
- Final decisions by the Board regarding the School Accommodation Study will be made at a public meeting no sooner than 60 calendar days following the presentation of the District staff recommendation report at a special meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

Note: the community can bring a delegation to any Board meeting as per By-laws of the Board

8.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.