

Public Meeting of Stakeholders
Regarding the
Modified Pupil Accommodation Review of RRPS
As per Policy 905 Pupil Accommodation

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 31st, 2017 - 6:30 pm

Designated Site: Red Rock Public School, 46 Salls Street, Red Rock, ON

1.0 In Attendance

Tamblyn, David: Director of Education
Tsubouchi, Cathy: Superintendent of Business
Morden-Cormier, Nicole: Superintendent of Education
Bishop, Charles: Assistant to the Director
Drazenovich, George: Mental Health Lead
Chiupka, Wayne: Manager of Plant Services
Paris, Marc: Coordinator of Plant Services
Freeburn, Hillary: Vice-Principal Red Rock Public School
Cotton, Erica: Principal Red Rock Public School & Nipigon-Red Rock High School
Wrigley, Kellie: Principal George O'Neill Public School
Kjellman, Colleen: Facilitator (Executive Director Brass Bell)
Groulx, Michael: Trustee
Sarrasin, Marlaine: Trustee

**2.0 Overview of Modified Pupil Accommodation Process – David Tamblyn,
Director of Education**

Key Points Presented:

Superior-Greenstone District School Board Priorities
Ministry of Education Priorities
Primary Rationale: Peers are Important to Learning
Board Policy: Accommodation Conditions
Board Policy: Modified Pupil Accommodation Process
Conduct A Study: Board of Trustee Motion – December 2016
Modified Pupil Accommodation Process: Timelines
Full Reports Available at www.sgdsb.on.ca

Director of Education, David Tamblyn explained the rationale behind the decision to start the Modified Pupil Accommodation Process. Although enrolment at Red Rock Public School has steadily declined in the last several years the school Board had put off starting the pupil accommodation process sooner because they were hopeful that the population of the school would rebound. The hope was that another business would re-open the mill, and there would be employment opportunities for young families to move into the community. But because that has not transpired, and with the enrolment level now at 11 students, the school Board decided it needed to look at alternatives in the interest of doing what is best for the students. Mr. Tamblyn explained that in spite of the staff's best efforts, with so few students spread from K-6, it is challenge to provide a supportive learning environment. He went on to explain that there are learning benefits to having greater number of same aged peers, as students can interact with each other creating a social dynamic in the classroom that supports a positive learning environment. He spoke of the benefits of increased engagement when students have more similar aged peers, as they can help each other. Finally, he spoke of the social and emotional benefits of a larger group of peers.

Mr. Tamblyn also explained that RRPS met the conditions to start the modified pupil accommodation process and that if the school were to close it would close at the end of June 2017. He explained where to find the Red Rock pupil accommodation review information on the Board website.

3.0 Initial Staff Report Details – Initial Staff Report - Nicole Morden-Cormier, Superintendent of Education & Cathy Tsubouchi, Superintendent of Education and Human Resources

Key Points Presented:

RRPS History: Grade 7-12 Study

Current Situation: Kindergarten to Grade 4 Facility

Current Bussing Situation: Red Rock to Nipigon

Current Situation: Staffing

Current Situation: Specialized Programs/Services

Current Situation: Grade Configuration and Enrolment

Enrolment: 5-Year Historic

Enrolment: 10-Year Projections

Funding: Impact of New Funding Model

Superintendent of Education, Nicole Morden-Cormier set the context for the history and current situation at the Red Rock Public School. She spoke about the exploration done in 2011 on a grade 7-12 model for our regional schools. She communicated that, at that time, there was a clear lack of support from parents, students and stakeholders for this idea (citing the challenges that may be experienced around lack of leadership opportunities, high school students influencing younger students, and supervision). She also stated that in 2014, there was the opportunity for grade 8 students to attend GONPS but families chose not to go. At this time however, there are 5 students from the Red Rock area who have chosen to attend the George O'Neill Public School. Nicole pointed out that while enrolment numbers at Red Rock Public School started out as 14 in October, 2016, they are current at 11 FTE in January 2017.

Superintendent of Business, Cathy Tsubouchi spoke about the OTG (How many students a school can accommodate) and how RRPS was only utilizing 7% of the building at this time. She also explained how the funding model had changed which has had a negative impact. She stated that they do get other grants but the funding models are based on student enrollment.

4.0 School Information Profile-Wayne Chiupka, Manager of Plant Services

Key Points Presented:

- Shared Space

- Current Facility Condition: FCI Index

- 5-Year Facility Renewal Needs

Manager of Plant Services, Wayne Chiuoka shared the roles of his department. He also gave us an overview of who was using the space at RRPS. He stated that the Early Years Centre was the only revenue for the space. He also stated that there is a team that inspects the school and gives it a FCI (Facility Condition Index) RRPS's rating was a 0.48, which falls in the poor condition range. He noted that the building is functioning as a school properly.

5.0 Option for Continued Public Education – Nicole Morden Cormier, Superintendent of Education, & Kellie Wrigley, Principal, George O'Neill Public School

Key Points Presented:

- Transition to George O'Neill Public School

George O'Neill Public School: Programs and Services
Current and Projected School Organization at GOPS
Academic Context: High Expectations and Authentic Learning
Social Context: Learning Together
Emotional Context: Responding to Student Interests
Supporting Each Other as a Community of Learners

Superintendent of Education, Nicole Morden-Cormier stated that much research and exploration had occurred prior to the recommendation that the current students of Red Rock Public School be transported to the George O'Neill Public School. She indicated that this decision reflects the need for students to be in an increasingly social environment that includes similar aged peers with programs and services to optimize learning.

Principal Kellie Wrigley stated the population of GONPS was approximately 108 students and explained how the busing would work to bring students from Red Rock to GONPS. Generally speaking, bus times would have the students picked up around 8:10 am, and brought home by 3:40 pm; in some cases, a later pick up and an earlier drop off than students currently residing in Nipigon. She commented on parents concern that the class sizes may be too big but explained how they were nice sizes and great for collaboration. She explained the roles of the Special Education teacher and the LLI and Math intervention. She expressed how with more students there are more opportunities and explained that with such a large staff they could offer many extra-curricular where teachers can share their strengths with the students. She shared that currently GONPS has a drama club, boys drumming, Archery for grades 4-8, choir, art program and sports teams. She also said that all sports and clubs run during the lunch break so that everyone has a chance to participate.

6.0 Next Steps: Colleen Kjellman, Facilitator

Colleen Kjellman reviewed the timelines for the Modified Pupil Accommodation Process, noting that there would be an opportunity for Stakeholders to make deputations in March.

7.0 Questions for Clarification – Colleen Kjellman, Facilitator

Colleen Kjellman opened the floor for questions for clarification, noting that the questions would be recorded and the responses would be posted on the Superior-Greenstone District School Board website.

QUESTIONS:

1. Can we look at alternate ways to socialize children without taking them out of the community? Also, not just socializing with own age groups – intergenerational.
2. How many Red Rock children are currently going to Nipigon?
3. What would be the capacity to keep the school open?
4. What are projected numbers for enrollment for September 2017?
5. If part of the school was rented, would that cover costs?
6. If students move, what happens to the Early Years Center?
7. Can we use part of the school for seniors?
8. Why can't older students come to RRPS from other schools?
9. What is Dorion Public Schools capacity?
10. Could we get a bus to Dorion?
11. How does Nakina house both Catholic and Public Schools under the same roof?
12. Will the monies budgeted (Approx \$685,000) for the next 5 years still be spent of the building or can it be delegated to GONPS?
13. Do you have to be Catholic or forced to do Catholic work at St. Hilary?
14. If there is room at St. Hilary, why do we have to go to Nipigon?
15. Is there a way to start communication with St. Hilary?
16. Can the children do recess with the other school (St. Hilary)?
17. What do you mean by more learning opportunities? – Give examples
18. How many students would come back if we had Gr. 7-8? Can we find that out?
19. When do we have to have questions by?
 - Dave replied that they could email questions and Cathy stated that the public delegations meeting was March 22, 2017
20. Would rent help pay for capital?
 - Wayne stated that renters help with cost recovery
21. Where will others in the building go?
 - Dave commented that there may be room at NRRDHS for Senior Admin and Brass Bell – Ontario Early Years

Parents also voiced the following concerns:

1. Concerned about IEP'd students and the change of environment.

2. The fear that if you close the school it will never re-open.
3. Concerned about the welfare of students in larger centre.
4. Parents feel forced to go to GONPS.
5. Don't want children on the Hwy.

8.0 Adjournment