

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Pupil Accommodation Review Working Committee Meeting: Manitouwadge

Wednesday, April 11, 2012
Manitouwadge High School Library
6:30 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		
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

2.0 Review of Minutes: February 29, 2012

3.0 Changes or Additions to Agenda
Impact of Provincial Budget

4.0 Review of Minutes of March 21, 2012 Public Session

Review minutes from March 21 meeting. These minutes are not as yet posted but will be posted once the amendments/changes have been updated in our minutes.

5.0 New Business

- 5.1 Cathy provided an overview of Capital Funding and how it works provincially. Handouts were provided.
- 5.2 Explained there is a “wish list”-- build up a financial reserve, site improvements (i.e. renovations) Health and Safety
- 5.3 **School Renewal Grants** are allocated annually by the MOE based on student population—the current allocation is \$952,000 and these funds can only be used for major repairs, renovations, additions, changes for program needs.

- 5.4 **School Condition Improvement** for 2011-12 we received \$920,000. This grant money can only be used for major repairs, renovations, additions, changes for program needs.
- 5.5 **Capital Priority Funding**—MOE requested projects for the next 5 years to begin 2013-16 but the funding has been reduced significantly from \$600 million to \$350 million. The Ministry's first priority is in areas where there are pressures in student accommodation. Identified projects must have a business case submitted.
- 5.6 Both Cathy and Wayne outlined the capital approval process—space is a key component, shows how new schools accommodated within the Ministry space benchmarks. Ministry must give approval before tendering.
- 5.7 Condition rating for Manitouwadge High School and Manitouwadge Public School are good. The School Renewal funding were outline by Cathy and Wayne over the past 5 years.

Question: Are we going to send in a capital project for this year?

Answer: Don't know. The Ministry of Education is coming to do a tour of school condition. We will be looking at this process in the next two weeks. Capital approval process takes a long time including the design piece, review of costing analysis etc. Capital Priority Funding just came out 2 weeks ago.

We may be able to let the Ministry know we are involved in an ARC process (This comment came about during this question)

- 5.8 Manitouwadge High School has had approximately 117,500 and Manitouwadge Public School \$156,000 in renewal projects over the past 5 years.
- 5.9 There is a 5-year School Renewal projected plan for the schools Manitouwadge Public School and Manitouwadge High School. These priorities may change depending on needs of the building and the system.
- 5.10 Capital deferred Renewal: Used for major repairs and renovations.
- 5.11 **Proceeds of Disposition** of \$507,000. The Ministry of Education must approve the use of these funds –waiting for a letter of approval from the Ministry for roofing projects at several schools. Any required work from the Board Office can only be financed from these funds, and there are some projects that will have to be addressed in the near future.
- 5.12 **School Renewal Grants**—These grants are allocated annually, major renovation projects are looked at in each school. Money not spent in a given year is placed into reserve.

Question: Do these capital funds (referring to the proceeds of disposition funds) have different criteria for their use?

Answer: A business case needs to be made to the Ministry for use of these funds. We expect that roof issues and health and safety concerns take priority. We have been turned down to use these funds for work at George O'Neill Public School and B.A. Parker Public School.

Question: What are proceeds of disposition?

Answer: For example, the proceeds of land sold in Marathon – these dollars are held and can only be used for capital projects.

Question: Do we have a time line about the three different scenarios that were highlighted: closing Manitouwadge Public School; moving only the Grade 7/8 students to Manitouwadge High School, or no change. Would this be impacted by the provincial budget?

Answer: The ARC committee has not as yet brought forth their recommendations. The provincial budget will have an impact but we do not know what this is going to be. Board support reiterated that ARC is a process and recommendations will be brought forward to the Board sometime in late Fall.

Discussions Following the Above Questions:

- Committee is “hog-tied” by our terms of reference. We may not be able to influence the final outcome by the Board. A deputation would get more impact at the board level.
- Need to hear from community groups. Deputations at the committee level would have little influence; however, the committee needs to hear deputations in order to help in writing our recommendation. As much information as possible is required. Without input from user groups their voices never may be heard.
- **Question:** Do we want to have a process to hear from groups? When the recommendations go to the Board does it go to a special committee meeting?
- Nancy is going to clarify whether or not delegations can present at this special board meeting. **(This is request has been placed into our next steps)**
- If this is the only place for delegations to present? We need to have the information whether it is from individual citizens or community groups or interested community members.
- Nancy outlined the format as to how a presentation occurs at the Board level. A report is presented 6 days ahead of the public meeting. There is a time limit on the presentation (10 minutes?)
- For these presentations it is suggested that the ARC committee receive the presentation (hard copy) 3 days prior to the public meeting. Each presentation can be up to 10 minutes in length plus an additional 5 minutes for Q&A’s. For the next public meeting, the committee will hear up to 6 presentations, but this number could certainly be adjusted in future meetings.
- It is not the mandate of the committee to find user groups, nor take income from the township, although Superior-Greenstone District School Board is open to building partnerships within the community. Town Council is aware of the Pupil Accommodations Review Process.

Committee members expressed concern over the communication process about the meetings. Parents were not aware of the public meeting. A better process of getting the message out about the upcoming public meeting is needed.

Question: Do we need to change the terminology (ARC) when advertising about the upcoming meetings—does our community really understand what the phrase “Pupil Accommodation Review Process” means?

Answer: None

Question: Should we be indicating what the three potential outcomes will be—would that provide clarification? Should we state it as simply as: *We are looking at which building your child will be educated in?*

Answer: None

Question: What if the potential options change? Do we indicate in the media that there can be a fourth alternative (i.e., all four schools in the same building)?

Answer: None

Ways we can communicate to the community about our upcoming meetings:

- Use the Thunder Bay Distributer www.tbistributers.com
- Ad Bag, cost should be comparable with the Echo—community tends to use the Ad Bag
- Recreation centre, value mart, post office, flyers could be placed on these bulletin boards. Community Services has a Facebook page.
- Sign-up sheet needs to be available at our public meetings.
- Al Cresswell (CFNO), CBC community announcements. Committee member could forward notices to these organizations. In addition ARC committee members could share the meeting information with organizations they are currently involved with through:
 - Email
 - Facebook
 - Twitter

School Visitation: Hornepayne Tour JK-12 School: Should we explore the possibility of our Committee visiting Hornepayne? Would it be possible to meet with their ARC committee? Can we get a copy of their report? Suggestion: If we had a blueprint of the school could we do a videoconference? Jocelyn and Dave would be interested in a trip.

Methodology for Forecasting Enrolment

Question: How do we come up with the student numbers?

Answer: Principals contact their feeder schools for the numbers of incoming elementary students. The elementary school also contacts the Health Unit for birth stats, and then makes projections over the next 5 years. At the secondary level, we also look at retention of student between October and March, and October to October.

Question: Do these numbers reflect Stillwater?

Answer: With Stillwater we are looking at 2016 for the entire 100km area divided btw Manitouwadge, Marathon and Terrace Bay. There have been no changes to enrolment numbers to reflect Stillwater.

Question: Is there a way to capture the actual numbers (Jocelyn identified 66 kids) he observed at a community function?

Answer: The only data we have is through the Health Unit. Pat to contact the local Health Unit to determine the number of children who are school age for the fall and the number or recorded births in our community who are pre-school or earlier.

Question: What is the impact of provincial budget on our School Board.

Answer: Nothing is known regarding the amalgamation of school boards that was announced in the budget. The Ministry will take the next year to consult with boards.

Question: Has there been any contact with the French Board?

Answer: The principal from the French Board attended our last public meeting. Nancy has made contact with the French Board, but was unable to speak with the Director and will call again. Dave needs information about revenue from utilization. Cathy used the financial --???

Are their opportunities that could come about with the French Board but the French Board should be aware of the changes.

Could the French Board present a deputation?
This committee would like to explore having all three school boards in one building.
Recognize that this is beyond the mandate of our committee. Need to let other Boards know what we are looking at and make contact.

What are some of the positive programming aspects of a 7-12 model? Questions presented to the Committee from P. Moonilal

Question: If the possibility/probability of 7/8s moving arise, are the parents going to be given the chance of input, as the parents in the Nipigon-Red Rock and Lake Superior regions were?

Answer: Yes there will be meetings to discuss this.

Question: Exactly what additional courses, experiences could be added to the 7/8 program if they were to move?

Answer: Since Manitouwadge High School offers shop, music, home economics courses we could incorporate these into 7/8 programming. There is also an auditorium (drama productions) and gym. By having the 7/8's be a part of the secondary school this certainly would support transition programming and give our students an opportunity to become familiar with the high school setting. Consultation with both unions would be a part of the process.

Question: If the 7/8s were given shop or home economics, what are they missing from their own curriculum, since there is no shop or Home Economics in grade 7/8 curriculum?

Answer: Both literacy and numeracy can be incorporated into both shop and home economics courses quite easily.

Question: What different or new initiative things are happening with the 7/8s in Geraldton?

Answer: At present the schools are still separate but they are exploring ideas around peer mentorship and school wide celebrations.

Question: How is the K-12 school in Geraldton functioning?

Answer: Things seem to be going very well. The PD opportunities (e.g. Growing Success) allows lends itself to cross panel team discussions on student achievement. A suggestion to have a video conference with the Geraldton Composite High School/B.A. Parker Public School was made.

Question: Who would or how would the grade 7/8s receive their French? Would the ETFO member have to travel to the high school to deliver their program?

Answer: It would depend on staffing, difficult to answer now.

Question: How advantageous would it be if the grade 7/8s were moved to the high school and then more than 50% of them were to transfer to the Catholic school?

Answer: It is hard to predict, perhaps the students in our Coterminous Board would come to the high school because of the programming.

Future meeting Dates

Working meeting – Wednesday, May 2, 2012

A notice will be placed in the Manitouwadge Echo and on CFNO stating that the public meeting for April 17 is cancelled and has been rescheduled to May 23, 2012.

6.0 Questions for Clarification

7.0 Next Steps

- 7.1 Make changes to the minutes on our previous meeting. Nancy has the notes to amend the minutes.
- 7.2 Send the PowerPoint to our committee members on Capital Funding and place on the web site.
- 7.3 Wording of an advertisement for the community for the next public meeting—need to discuss options??
- 7.4 Use the Ad Bag once to see if it makes any difference for turn out.
- 7.5 Wayne to contact the Algoma District School Board to gain information about the design of the Hornepayne School. Wayne provided floor plans for both Manitouwadge High School and Manitouwadge Public School for the committee's reference.
- 7.6 Nancy to find out if delegations can present to the Board.
- 7.7 Nancy to contact Hornepayne regarding a videoconference about their K-12 school.
- 7.8 Nancy will make contact again with the Director of the French Board.

8.0 Adjournment

Adjournment occurred at 9:00 p.m.