

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

***Pupil Accommodation Review Working Committee Meeting: Manitouwadge***

Wednesday, February 29, 2012  
Manitouwadge High School Library  
6:30 p.m.

***MINUTES***

<b><i>Working Committee Members</i></b>	<b><i>In Attendance</i></b>	<b><i>Regrets</i></b>	<b><i>Absent</i></b>
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>Business Representative</i> )	X		
MOFFAT, Jim ( <i>Business Representative</i> )	X		

<b><i>Board Support Members</i></b>	<b><i>In Attendance</i></b>	<b><i>Regrets</i></b>	<b><i>Absent</i></b>
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

The meeting was called to order by Nancy Petrick at 6:32 p.m.

2.0 Review of Minutes of January 31, 2012

- a) Change Jocelyn Bourgoin to a community representative instead of a business member.
- b) The name of the handouts given out our committee members on Jan 31<sup>st</sup> will be added to those minutes.
- c) Dates of our upcoming meeting need to be added to the Jan 31<sup>st</sup> meeting.

3.0 Changes or Additions to Agenda

- a) Questions from Dave Passi.
- b) Cathy Tsubouchi to present financial information.
- c) Email from Jim Killingbeck.

4.0 Election of ARC Chairs

Nancy Petrick explained that the committee could have a Chair that rotates or it could be two members that co-chaired the committee. The only stipulation from the Ministry is that whatever model we select the process must be in our Terms of Reference.

Dave Raymond agreed to be the chair but there will be a formal process for responding to questions from the community. Acclaimed.

Questions will be posted to the website or the ARC email address and as a committee we will respond based on the information we have on hand. However, the community needs to understand that research may have to be done to answer some of the questions.

## 5.0 New Business

- a) Questions from Dave Passi: *“These questions come from parents and teachers who have approached me as well as myself and more questions have come since I attended the Board Meeting on Friday.”*

Question 1: *In the future, how will parents be informed of this process and **most importantly, by whom will they be informed?***

Answer: *Letters will be sent home from public meetings; minutes and agendas will be posted in the school; for further updates see PowerPoint Presentation available on the board website <http://www.sqdsb.on.ca/article/arc-review-manitouwadge-347.asp>. Notifications will come from Nancy Petrick and the committee members.*

Question 2: *Please provide the figures which provide the following information:*

- a) *School populations (elementary and secondary), plus available space for the following schools using the same process (formula) as was done in calculating the figures for Manitouwadge Public School:*
  - i) *Terrace Bay and Schreiber Public Schools and Lake Superior High School*
  - ii) *Red Rock and Dorion Public Schools and Nipigon-Red Rock District High School*

Answer: *Nancy explained that the public may want to speak about other regions but that is not the mandate of this committee. If any member of the public wishes to know school enrolments and/or the capacity of any of our schools they can onto the Board website to obtain this information.*

Question 3: *Of the 316 available spaces at Manitouwadge Public School, was consideration given to the number of spaces occupied by the French School in that building and if so what affect did it have on moving forward with the decision to do a **PAR** for the schools in Manitouwadge?*

Answer: *Cathy Tsubouchi explained the “on the ground capacity” and these are the numbers she uses in calculating the grants. The French school is not included in the “on the ground capacity” and the amount of revenue that is generated to our Board will be explored. The impact of the French School will be discussed.*

Question 4: *Was consideration given to the amount of money the French Board provides for the operation/maintenance of Manitouwadge Public School? If so, what are the financial savings to the Board in having the French School contribute financially to the overall operational cost of Manitouwadge Public School?*

*Answer: This information will continue to be gathered and shared. These questions will become part of the process and this committee will search out answers and come up with recommendations. The Committee needs to bring options to the community and when the committee begins to write their report they will have the necessary information to make an informed decision.*

*Question 5: When considering **PAR** for Manitouwadge Public School and Manitouwadge High School, was consideration given to the fact that areas such as Red Rock and Terrace Bay have track and field facilities and a soccer field in close proximity to both elementary and secondary schools in those towns? Accommodating Manitouwadge Public School students at Manitouwadge High School could eliminate the accessibility to the existing track and field / soccer field for Manitouwadge Public School students, or the Board would have to incur either bussing costs to transport students to and from the field, or incur the cost of building a new facility.*

*Answer: The Committee will address this question at a later date.*

*Question 6: Why were the Terrace Bay/Schreiber and Red Rock/Dorion/Nipigon areas not considered when they were originally ahead of Manitouwadge for the **PAR** process? Why all of a sudden did Manitouwadge Public School move ahead when other schools have a smaller student population than Manitouwadge Public School?*

*Answer: Nancy explained that a number of years ago a report in April 2008 had been presented to the Board naming the regions in which an area review would occur: Terrace Bay /Schreiber and Nipigon/Red Rock; however, the process ended up being changed the Board then rescinded this report because Superior-Greenstone District School Board policy needed to be changed to meet new guidelines.*

*Question 7: There has been lots of money put into Manitouwadge Public School (windows, cupboards, etc.) lately and people feel it is a sound and safe building. Thus no other upgrades should be necessary but wouldn't moving the Manitouwadge Public School students be a cost item when it may not be necessary considering everything else?*

*Answer: Cathy Tsubouchi does not have this information, but Wayne Chiupka will be able to provide us with the specifics.*

*Question 8: Where would the money come from to accommodate the students from Manitouwadge Public School at Manitouwadge High School and how much money would it involve? Ongoing costs such as playground installation and maintenance and increased bussing costs as well as modification costs to an existing new building as well as construction costs of a possible new soccer and track and field facility considering we already have one which was of no cost to Superior-Greenstone to obtain?*

*Answer: This is an option this committee will cost out.*

*Question 9: Would it be beneficial, or has it been considered or looked into, to look at other renters in the building such as the Nursery School and the Best Start Hub, both of which would lead to a natural transition for new students from these programs into Manitouwadge*

*Public School as well as providing financial support – or even Contact North/ Have any of these ideas/possibilities been considered?*

*Answer: Cost recovery basis.*

*Question 10: Has it been fully looked at that there could be more families moving into Manitouwadge with the potential of a mine opening between Marathon and Manitouwadge, and the possibility of a road between Manitouwadge and the mine being constructed as it is not a great distance and affordable housing is available in Manitouwadge?*

*Answer: We look at projected enrollments, birth rates, and economic trends, but we have no hard data. Dave Raymond will provide contact information for the mine and forestry companies.*

*Question 11: If parents stated that they would move their children to the Catholic school in the event that Manitouwadge Public School and Manitouwadge High School were joined, would that put an end to this **PAR (does this sound like Schreiber)?***

*Answer: It is our hope that our programs at our elementary school will keep our students engaged in rich programming.*

*Question 12: Are the students going to be completely separated at Manitouwadge High School? Using the upstairs and downstairs at Manitouwadge High School would mean sharing the gym, library and theatre so will there truly be separation?*

*Question 13: Can the Board (high school) stop the high school students from smoking in front of the school? If the answer is no, how do you think parents of Manitouwadge Public School students will feel about this?*

*Question 14: Is this really a cost saving to the Board or just an attempt to close Manitouwadge Public School? Financial figures regarding this question as well as rationale for this to go forward is being requested.*

*Answer to Questions 12, 13 and 14: We will be exploring answers to all these questions as a committee through the ARC process.*

- b) Jim Killingbeck does not have the time to commit to participate in the committee. His email will be forwarded to each member.
- c) Cathy Tsubouchi handed out Enrolment and Financial operating data for both schools and explained the data on each sheet.
- d) The outline of our upcoming first public meeting was discussed:
  - i) Outline the process to the community.
  - ii) Questions will be fielded at the end of the presentation. The Public needs to understand they may not have answers to their questions right away.

## 6.0 Questions for Clarification

Question: *What are the responsibilities of the Chair?*

Answer: *Nancy clarified by referring to the School Accommodation Study –Terms of Reference and explained about the requirements for creating the report.*

Question: *Is the Chair the voice of the committee?*

Answer: *Yes the chair would be the voice, but anything public would come from the committee itself. All the questions should go the website. We can place into our Terms of Reference as to how we are going communicate information.*

Question: *Can we sent up an email system so the committee members get the email and the committee members can see the response?*

Answer: *Nancy said she will set that up.*

Question: *Are we going to have answers to Dave Passi's questions prior to the next to the public meeting?*

Answer: *We will have answers to some of the questions for the next meeting. Marcia commented that the phrasing of the questions sounds like a decision has already been made but the point is that no decision has been made.*

Question: *Why has the Board not chosen to do an ARC on other schools?*

Answer: *Manitouwadge High School has the lowest occupancy in the secondary schools and in the elementary schools Manitouwadge Public School has the lowest.*

Question: *If we have to make changes to the high school does the Ministry cover the capital costs?*

Answer: *The Ministry has guidelines for expenditures.*

Question: *Does the municipality pay school board taxes even if the taxes are not paid by the industry?*

Answer: *Yes.*

Question: *How accurate is the estimate on the sheets handed out?*

Answer: *Very close*

Question: *What are the board deficits?*

Answer: *There are two deficits: one approximately PSAB \$700,000 and the other is an approximated \$270,000 Compliance deficit. Every option needs to be costed out. For example if the grade 8 students move to the high school what will the grant be given?*

Question: *Have there been any discussions with the French Board?*

Answer: *Nancy stated that the Director will be in touch with her on March 2, 2012.*

Question: *Are there things that we can do at the secondary school to reduce their deficit based on the numbers Cathy presented?*

Answer: *Dave Raymond gave the option of having the grade 7 and 8 students going over to the secondary school.*

Question: *What is the focus of the first public meeting?*

Answer: *It is the process of the ARC.*

## 6.0 Next Steps

- Forward Report 83 October 2011, Report 25 April 2008 to all committee members.
- Wayne to provide information on the renewal projects done over the past five years and the next 5 years.
- Capital Reserves.
- Dave Raymond will forward the contact information for the new mine development and Rentec forestry development in the White River area.
- Forward email from Jim Killingbeck indicating that he was not able to be part of the committee due to time constraints.
- Cathy will forward the review of space to John. However, Cathy will check with Wayne to see if he has it. We will need to have a review of space of MNPS
- Can we look at 3 options:
  - Status Quo
  - Moving the Grade 7 and 8 students to Manitouwadge High School
  - Moving all elementary students to Manitouwadge High School
  - Cathy will do her best to put together figures.
- Sheet to all committee members indicating the ***tentative meeting dates.***
- April 4, 2012: Cathy Tsubouchi will advise the committee as to the status of the options and will advise as to whether we need to move the public meeting in April.

- Items for March 21<sup>st</sup> Public Meeting: Date, time and location posted on the board website, sheets available for community members to write down their questions.
- Cathy Tsubouchi to send out tonight's hand-outs electronically.

#### 7.0 Distribution of Documents

- Handouts Current Utilization Reports for both Manitouwadge High School and Manitouwadge Public School.
- Financial Review of each School.
- Minutes of Jan 31, 2012 meeting.

#### 8.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.