

Superior-Greenstone District School Board

Grade 7-12 Study

Meeting Summaries

Nipigon-Red Rock District HS Advisory Committee Meeting: *April 10, 2012*

Nipigon-Red Rock District HS Advisory Committee Meeting: *April 30, 2012*

Nipigon-Red Rock District HS Advisory Committee Meeting: *May 10, 2012*

Lake Superior High School Advisory Committee Meeting: *April 12, 2012*

Lake Superior High School Advisory Committee Meeting: *April 25, 2012*

Lake Superior High School Advisory Committee Meeting: *May 09, 2012*

Mandate

Currently, we have two secondary schools, these being Nipigon-Red Rock District High School and Lake Superior High School where we would like to study the feasibility of a 7-12 Model. The study would involve the elementary feeder schools of Dorion, Schreiber, Terrace Bay, Red Rock and George O'Neill.

Although the study will be conducted by senior administration (with the support of board office staff and the school principals), there will be a School Advisory Committee for each of the areas involved in the study. The purpose of the two committees would be to advise senior administration of issues and concerns particular to the stakeholder groups represented by members of the committee.

The School Advisory Committees are to be comprised of a School Council representative and a student from each of the catchment schools, a school administrator from the elementary and secondary panels, one teacher representative each from the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation as well as members of senior administration.

A report will be completed by the end of May and a recommendation based on these studies would follow to the Board.

Nipigon-Red Rock District High School Study

Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, April 10, 2012 @ 6:30 p.m. *Go to Meeting Summary*
- Monday, April 30, 2012 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 10, 2012 @ 6:30 p.m.

All meetings are open to public observers. The public will be provided an opportunity to make presentations at these meetings. All presenters are required to submit their presentation in writing. As a component of the final section in the meetings, all presenters will be given two minutes to make statements.

Committee Members

Dorion Public School

- Tricia Stendlund ~ Teacher
- Kitty Dumonski ~ Parent

Red Rock Public School

- Candace Hedlund ~ Parent / Teacher

Nipigon-Red Rock District High School

- Donna Fry ~ Administrator
- Anne Lockwood ~ Administrator (Alternate)
- Jenni Scott Marciski ~ Teacher
- Cheryl Hendricken ~ (Alternate)
- Dave Cain ~ (Alternate)

George O'Neill Public School

- Kelly Mangoff ~ Parent
- Michael Modin ~ Teacher
- Kellie Wrigley ~ Teacher / Parent of Gr. 6 Student (Alternate)
- Michelle Bird ~ Parent (Alternate)
- Tania Trottier ~ Teacher (Alternate)

Administrators

- Dave Tamblyn, Board
- Nicole Morden-Cormier
- Holly Stortini
- Will Goodman

Lake Superior High School Study

Meeting Dates

- Thursday, April 12, 2012 @ 3:00 p.m. *Go to Meeting Summary*
- Wednesday, April 25, 2012 @ 4:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 9, 2012 @ 3:00 p.m.

All meetings are open to public observers. The public will be provided an opportunity to make presentations at these meetings. All presenters are required to submit their presentation in writing. As a component of the final section in the meetings, all presenters will be given two minutes to make statements.

Committee Members

Schreiber Public School

- Toshia Borutski ~ Parent
- Sara Curtis ~ Teacher/Parent

Terrace Bay Public School

- Horst Prager ~ Teacher
- Leslie Blackwood ~ Teacher (Alternate)
- Terry Bell ~ Parent

Lake Superior High School

- Leslie Blackwood ~ Teacher / Parent
- Lindsay Costa ~ Teacher
- Barb Maine ~ Teacher (Alternate)

Administrators

- Dave Tamblyn, Board
- Kim Asmussen
- Linda Palmer

Superior-Greenstone District School Board

Nipigon Red Rock District High School Advisory Committee Meeting

Grade 7-12 Model Study

Meeting Summary

Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 @ 6:30 p.m.

NSHS – Videoconference Room

<u>Administration</u>	Attendance: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)				
	OS	TC	VC	A	R
David Tamblyn, Director of Education	X				
Will Goodman, Principal DOPS & RRPS	X				
Holly Stortini, Principal GOPS	X				
Donna Fry, Principal NRHS	X				
Nicole Morden-Cormier, SEF Lead	X				
<u>Committee Members</u>	Attendance: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)				
	OS	TC	VC	A	R
Katie Dumonski~ Parent-DOPS	X				
Kelly Mangoff ~ Parent GOPS	X				
Mike Modin ~ Teacher GOPS	X				
Tricia Stenlund ~ Teacher DOPS	X				
Jenny Scott-Marciski ~ Teacher NRHS	X				

Public Gallery: SGDSB Trustee: Bette Bartlett
GOPS Parents: Michelle Bird, Loretta Mangoff, Doug Mangoff,
Red Rock Parents: Cam Todesco, Cheryl Hendericksen

Director David Tamblyn welcomed Advisory Committee members and public gallery members. D. Tamblyn also provided an outline of meeting format. Three such meeting will be held; thereafter a report to the Board will be developed by the end of May 2012. However, he advised that the project being such a significant undertaking would not see implementation in September 2012.

A slide show about the current situation of the Board and the benefits of a 7-12 Model was provided. An overview of the implications of the proposed provincial budget and the Board's current deficit was reported. D. Tamblyn also noted administration's awareness of parental concerns about:

- The move into the high school, and
- What impact it would have on the local elementary schools without gr. 7/8 classes

In providing a summary of the possible setup at NRHS he advised that:

- Gr. 7/8's would have their own wing of the school
- Gr. 7/8's would have their own entrance
- Gr. 7/8's would use of their own washrooms
- There were three or four classrooms available to use
- Access would be provided to the technology, art, and culinary arts rooms and science lab
- The specialist teachers as mentioned in the slide show would as might be the case in the technology area, be a situation that would see OSSTF and ETFO teacher working together for delivery.

A brief discussion took place about the appointment of a Committee Chair, where D. Tamblyn advised group about the role which would include running the meetings smoothly, conferring with him about the agenda and ensuring that the rules of order are followed. No appointment was made at this time.

Benefits of Project

D. Tamblyn:

- The model would help minimize or alleviate staff reductions as declining enrolment continues
- B.A. Parker PS and Geraldton Composite HS (JK to Grade 12) being in one facility this year is proving positive. For example, as two separate schools under one roof, it has electronic key-entry doors for separation, however things are working out well; there is even talk about easing the definite divide
- Currently, there is an area review in the Manitouwadge wherein the solution being discussed here could be a move to a K to 12 school in one building
 - Asked by a member would the province make the decision of what schools to close? D. Tamblyn said that boards to decide what schools to close but with cutbacks, there will be pressure to make decisions. The Area review process takes about one year

Donna Fry

- A significant benefit is the opportunity to have straight grade classes
- NRHS staff have also noted that there would be more opportunity for collaboration between Gr. 7/8 teachers and secondary teachers and more collaboration afforded for the intermediate teachers, i.e., Gr. 7-10
- NRHS staff note that when students have come to the school for events, their safety has not been a concern raised...student body at high school has been very appropriate and often helpful with these events
- It may benefit Gr. 7/8 students as they would relate better with Gr. 9-12 than JK to Gr. 6.

W. Goodman

- With larger number of students there would be opportunities to form more group work and variations of groups
- Field trips, sports teams; we need to listen to student voice – what are their feelings?
- Graduation dates could be more of a celebratory event...how do we have a graduation when there is only one student?

Nicole Morden-Cormier

- On the topic of leadership...many elementary student leaders reside in Gr. 6, not Gr. 7/8
- W. Goodman noted the example of recess time, when many Gr. 7/8's are just standing around near the doors
- N. Morden-Cormier reported that most instructional strategies from the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat are for K to 6, there is no reference to Gr. 7/8. There is more information for the Gr. 7/8 teachers from documents that cover 7 to 12.

Negative of the Project

Kelly Mangoff

- It's possible some students would be lost St. Edward's as they already have a straight Gr. 7/8
- Students at St. Edwards could stay in town rather than ride bus into school.
- Tough job to have parents see the advantages of this change, the perceptions of the high school kids, bussing, the lack of communication, lack of awareness for the parents

Katie Dumonski

- People have fear of change – it is challenging to a lot of people...next step is closing schools
How is this cost-saving?

Communication

- We need better communication about the project as there is a sense that parents input would be neglected.

- Donna Fry suggested that somehow we need to communicate to public that the NRHS staff is on board with this. We need to work on the high school image – public perception.
- David Tamblyn notes that some vehicles for communication now in progress include:
 - public advisory committee meetings
 - we will have a website set up and minutes from all meetings will be posted

Additional suggestions

- hold public meetings in all 3 communities
- hold a meeting in Nipigon and invite Dorion and Red Rock
- send letter by mail to parents outlining what is happening,
 - include e-mail contact information
 - provide an explanation of some of the approaches that can be taken in the curriculum with a 7-12 model i.e., how can woodworking, culinary art and technology room enhance the Gr. 7/8 program
 - given outline of concrete issues to be applied such as:
 - Separate washrooms for 7/8s
 - Different lunch time
 - Guarantee of programs and use of rooms
 - Bussing issues
 - Opening up the image of high school
 - Plans for existing schools
 - Transition time from K-8 schools to 7-12 and K-6
- provide a brochure or newsletter informing parents about
 - the cost saving piece
 - assurance of what is going to happen to the smaller schools as some parent's perception is that the next step is closing schools
 - schedule/timetable of what Gr. 7/8 students will be doing
 - D. Fry advises this is not possible to do at this time because high school timetable for next school year is not set up.
 - T. Stenlund suggests it's hard to have a brochure done when there are really no answers as yet
 - D. Tamblyn hesitates to send brochure

Questions and Answers

Q: How does the use of the tech room or woodworking enhance the 7/8 program and fit into the curriculum for Gr. 7 & 8?

A: These are authentic tasks that students are interested in and can be used to enhance procedural writing.

A: The hands-on experience will engage the students so they can write about it, become a part of the culminating task for completion of a unit of study

A: Looking at expectations of both classes (Gr. 7 or Gr. 8 with Gr. 9 or Gr. 10) and collaborating in team teaching

A: Gr. 7 to 12 is not a new concept, it's a reality. It's a great opportunity for the students. It seems that there is a paralyzed concern that there may be a problem.

Q: Has there been consideration in doing a pilot study in one area?

A: No, there is no positive climate in either areas being studied, so little/no opportunity to take this approach.

Q: What about bussing?

A: All the students in Dorion right now are bussed and it does not appear to create a problem

- Comment by C. Todesco: The reality is that Red Rock Public will be closed – if people don't like it, they will go to the other system. Then the schools will be closed sooner. It's time to make decisions, tough decisions.

Q: M. Bird What happens to Red Rock with just fourteen students?

Q: B. Bartlett Wearing my hat as a trustee for Nipigon and looking at my information about the number of students, I have a few questions.

- What happens in a few years – does it still stay a straight Gr. 7 and Gr. 8?
- How long will this exist due to the numbers?
 - I would suggest that the committee needs to have numbers for each grade not divisions and you should be asking for this.
 - Speaking for Nipigon – parents want their kids in town – we have the hospital and the police.
- Is this a long-term solution?

Q: L. Mangoff Have you looked at the administration?

- You have 14 principals and 3 vice principals

Should principals be principal of more than one school and have vice-principals in the smaller schools?

A: D. Tamblyn The problem is the distance that one principal would have to travel. We have some schools that share a principal. Most principals in the smaller schools are teaching principals – they are teaching part-time and then principal part-time. We will be looking at scenarios and things we have done in the past.

Next Meeting

- Committee members' thoughts about what can we do to enhance school programs in our small schools if they become K to 6
- What resources would committee members have administration bring to the next meeting
- Perhaps do a tour of the high school
- Take pictures and post them on the website

Superior-Greenstone District School Board

Lake Superior High School Advisory Committee Meeting

Grade 7-12 Model Study

Meeting Summary

Date: Thursday, April 12, 2012 @ 6:30 p.m.

LSHS – Videoconference Room

<u>Administration</u>	<i>Attendance: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)</i>				
	OS	TC	VC	A	R
David Tamblyn, Director of Education	X				
Kim Asmussen, Principal SCPS & TBPS	X				
Linda Palmer, Principal LSHS	X				
<u>Committee Members</u>	<i>Attendance: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)</i>				
	OS	TC	VC	A	R
Tosha Borutski ~ Parent	X				
Sara Curtis ~ Teacher/Parent	X				
Horst Prager ~ Teacher	X				
Leslie Blackwood ~ Teacher (Alternate)	X				
Terry Bell ~ Parent	X				
Lindsay Costa ~ Teacher	X				
Barb Maine ~ Teacher (Alternate)	X				

Public Gallery: SGDSB Trustee Angel Santerre
Parent: Mr. Borutski

Director David Tamblyn welcomed Advisory Committee members and public gallery members. D. Tamblyn also provided an outline of meeting format and advised the group that the latter part of the meeting would permit observers an opportunity to make a two-minute presentation.

D. Tamblyn Opening Comments

- The information provided this evening is similar to that which David delivered to the public attending at the Schreiber Public School when the mandate for the Advisory Committee was reviewed
- Declining enrolment throughout system has resulted in very small class sizes and multiple grade groupings.
- the teacher pupil ratio in classrooms is extremely low and long term sustainability of present staffing levels is not feasible under the current economic conditions.
- Enrolment projection for September 2012 is down by 30 FTE students
- Focus is on small school to make decisions in the best interest of students and what are the alternatives
- two areas of study are Lake Superior HS and Nipigon-Red Rock District HS and its feeder schools
- Province has recommended proposals with which the board is bound to comply given that the new Ontario budget passes
- Vote on Ontario budget is expected on April 24, 2012-2013 Grants for Student Needs (GSN) will then be set in legislation
- Ministry has indicated funding base will be similar to last, but the board has to balance the budget in one year
- SGDSB per pupil provincial average is \$11,189
- Separate schools are funded higher as are the French Public Boards
- It should be noted that several ministry initiatives are funded outside of the GSN, that being:
 - Full Day Kindergarten
 - Student Success
 - Equity and Inclusive Education

- Aboriginal Initiatives, and a host of others
- We only receive 0.5 full-time-equivalent FTE funding for JK/SK enrolment
- With Ontario budget passed, funding withdrawal from small schools amounts to \$44 million in 2013 and \$72 million in 2014
- SGDSB is the smallest English board in the province
- Amalgamation may be an option that province would employ should its current budget pass
- Ministry expects to cut expenditures by \$10 million in 2013 and \$17 million in 2014 for a savings of \$27 million with amalgamations
- Our information is that the ministry would be consulting with boards as to how this would look
- Constitutional rights of Separate and French boards will be honoured in that neither of these entities would be amalgamated with public, English boards
- The Declining Enrolment Grant is being cut by \$6.6 million for 2012-2013
- SGDSB Statistics
 - In last 10 years, enrolment has declined 40%
 - Currently, combined elementary and secondary enrolment is 1600 FTE students
 - Projections for 2012-2013 are: Elementary 766.0 / Secondary 736.5 for a total enrolment of 1502.5 FTE students
 - We have a compliance deficit of \$244,000 and if we do not take action that deficit will rise to \$488,000 next year

Challenges

- How to provide quality programming if parents move children to Separate board...it will prove unsustainable

Study of 7-12 Model

- A brief recap was provided regarding the Nipigon-Red Rock DHS and Lake Superior HS 7-12 Model
- The mandate involves
 - all feeder schools,
 - one advisory group for each of the two areas
 - three meetings for each
- It would eliminate two teacher positions
- Other solutions will be looked at to save \$'s
- It is a significant undertaking to implement such a model, therefore any such development would not be in place this September (2012)

Open Discussion by Advisory Group

- Discussion ensued in regard to what could be offered students in a 7-12 Model, i.e., classrooms and program opportunities
- Equipment such as computers/smart boards that reside in the elementary 7/8 classes would move into the 7-12 facility

Questions and Answers

Q: Are we looking at 7-12 Model or other options?

A: The main focus is 7-12 Model.

Q: How can we save? Cost saving purposes?

A: Other school boards increase enrolment by offering 7-12 Models

Q: How big are their communities?

A:

- 70,000 students
- Atikokan is comparable to our region
- Manitouwadge currently has an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) process to study a school closure. Timeframe for this is one-year. Possible outcome is a K-12 school or a 7-12 School.

Q: If it become Lakehead DSB, could they just close it?

A: LDSB would have to follow an ARC process

Q: What are class sizes of in the Atikokan School?

A: There are 40 Grade 7/8 students.

Q: Would it be a good school to contact?

A: • Yes, this can be checked out through the Rainy River DSB.
• We need to look at what it looks like to remove Grade 7/8 students and how it affects elementary schools' percentage of space utilization

Q: Is there a minimum standard for K-6 school?

A: In Schreiber PS, it would leave two teachers for K-6

Q: What about just bringing over grade 8 students?

Benefits

- Collaborative approach with teachers
- Intermediate division would be collaborative with specialist subjects like music, art and technology
- On-site counseling
- Going to school with older siblings
- Access to nurse practitioner
- Access to guidance department
- Access to labs and specialized classroom areas like shops/technology
- Simply the regular access to the high school facilities would be helpful
- From teaching perspective, lots of benefits to consult between panels
- Opportunity to get separate school students whose parents are tuned into the extra resources being made available
- Good chance for senior students to interact with 7/8 students
- Adjustment may be difficult initially, but history in other schools shows that by Christmas, assimilation is well developed
- See merit from 7/8 to grade 9 transition

Negative Factors

- There would be a skeletal staff at both SCPS and TBPS
- Our board may not get the JK / SK enrolment
- How do we maintain staffing?
- Looks like we are trying to make good for just two grades (7/8)
- Would high school access to program be accommodated, for example, would students have Mrs. Costa as an art teacher?
- Sometimes with low number, it is hard to find leadership in the grade 8 students
- What would graduation look like...would students miss out on that milestone celebration?

Challenges

- Union issue will be negative
- Supervision
- Bussing...would there still be funds for continue late buses for students from Schreiber to stay after school?
- Supervision / timetabling for ETFO in secondary schools
- More buses would be needed to transport from Schreiber
- Bullying
- Staffing
- Computers
- Culture change

Homework Assignment

- How can we enhance programming in elementary schools when we remove 7/8 students
- See merit from 7/8 to Grade 9 environment
- At the end, if we implement this: nay or yay...will it never happen?