

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Report No: 25
Date: April 24, 2017

TO: Chair and Members of the
Superior-Greenstone District School Board

FROM: David Tamblyn, Director of Education

SUBJECT: Pupil Accommodation Review for Red Rock Public School – Public Delegation Report

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Student Achievement and Well-Being, Responsible Stewardship of Resources

Background

Policy 905: Pupil Accommodation Review states that, “once the Final Staff Report is submitted to the Board, there will be an opportunity for members of the public to provide feedback on the Final Staff Report through public delegations to the Board” and that the feedback will be compiled and presented to the Board to consider with the Final Staff Report. The Board of Trustees will make their final decision regarding the future of the Red Rock Public School after considering the information from both Senior Administration’s Final Staff Report and the feedback from stakeholders at the Public Delegations Meeting.

Current Situation

Although no public delegations had been booked by stakeholders, at the Special Board Meeting held on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, the six parents and four community members in attendance provided informal feedback to the Board of Trustees.

The following concerns and questions were raised:

Municipality of Red Rock (Represented by Mayor Gary Nelson):

- Mayor Nelson indicated that:
 - It will be increasingly difficult to promote the community of Red Rock to attract new residents if there is only one school.
 - The school should remain open for another year to provide the opportunity to bring back the students who should be attending Red Rock Public School but who are currently attending both St. Hillary’s Catholic School and George O’Neill Public School.
 - The Superior-Greenstone District School Board should explore options other than school closure, including bussing students in grade six to eight from both Dorion and Nipigon to Red Rock.
 - The students from Red Rock Public School should be co-located in St. Hillary’s Catholic School so that they remain in the community. The suggestion was also made to have the students integrated into the same classrooms as the Catholic School students.
 - The community will continue to advocate to the Board with the goal of keeping the school open.

Parent:

- Parents expressed concerns that:
 - Since school closure discussions began and the school became a Kindergarten to Grade Five facility, at least 15 students have been turned away from Red Rock Public School.
 - Recently families have been leaving the school due to fear of school closure.
 - The Superior-Greenstone District School Board has not explored all of the possibilities for their children, including bussing their children to Dorion Public School and making Red Rock Public School a senior public school.
 - This school closure would be forcing the families to put their children into George O’Neill Public School, which is a large school.
 - Students are already facing challenges to this possible transition (such as attending the larger school) and they need to be encouraged to embrace this change. There was encouragement for families to remain positive for their children.

Community Members:

- Community members inquired about the future of the building.

Director of Education, David Tamblyn, responded to the concerns by providing further information and stakeholders were informed that their concerns would be taken into consideration before trustees made a final decision.

Next Steps

As per the Final Staff Report, the recommendation of senior staff, in the best interest of student achievement and social and emotional learning, is the preferred option to continue to provide transportation for all current students and all future students to the George O'Neill Public School, beginning in September, 2017.

The Board of Trustees have the discretion to approve the recommendation of the Final Staff Report as presented, modify the recommendation of the Final Staff Report, or to approve a different outcome.

Administrative Recommendations

That, the Superior-Greenstone District School Board having received Report No. 25: Red Rock Public School Modified Pupil Accommodation Review formally ends the provision of educational programming at Red Rock Public School and will keep in mind the community's interest in the future of the facility, effective June 30, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by:

David Tamblyn
Director of Education

Nicole Morden Cormier
Superintendent of Education

Cathy Tsubouchi
Superintendent of Business

Charles Bishop
Assistant to the Director