

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

Responses to Questions Posed by Stakeholders

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

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

| Question | Response |
|---|--|
| <p>1. How many Red Rock children are currently going to Nipigon?</p> <p>2. How many students would come back if we had Gr. 7-8? Can we find that out?</p> | <p>There are 5 children who are eligible to attend Red Rock Public School attending George O'Neill Public School.</p> <p>Relocating Red Rock Public School into the St. Hillary's School building would require two additional classrooms, office space, and renovations. Aligning the school schedules to facilitate a shared recess is possible. However, with both of these possible options, students would continue to be in very small classes and the goal of enhancing the academic learning environment would not be met.</p> <p>Families of students in grade 5-8 have had the choice to return to Red Rock Public School. The decision in 2014 to offer bussing to the four students in grade 8 was made with the understanding that as the primary division students moved into the junior and intermediate divisions, the school will return gradually to a K-8 facility. Although the school has grown with grade 5 and 6 students in the past two years, parents have made the choice to leave the school due to the very low student numbers in these grades. Consequently, with the small, fluctuating numbers of students, the growth back to a K-8 facility has not occurred.</p> |
| <p>3. What are projected numbers for enrollment for September 2017?</p> <p>4. What would be the capacity to keep the school open?</p> | <p>If the current trend continues, we anticipate 11 students enrolled in September 2017. Enrollment projections for the next 10 years indicate that, by 2026-2027, there will be four students enrolled.</p> <p>We would like to have a healthy population in every grade level to keep the school open.</p> |
| <p>5. Can we look at alternate ways to socialize children without taking them out of the community? Also, not just socializing with own</p> | <p>SGDSB is committed to preparing our students for the complex challenges of the future. Researchers in the field of education have cited specific competencies that students must learn in order to be successful, including the valuable skill of collaboration. Students need to learn to participate in teams,</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>age groups – intergenerational.</p> <p>6. What do you mean by more learning opportunities? – Give examples</p> | <p>assuming various roles on the team; establish positive relationships with peers and manage conflict, learn from and contribute to the learning of others, co-construct knowledge with their peers (through discussion, interaction, problem solving etc.) and learn to respect the diversity of perspectives that their peers have to contribute. The classroom environment must provide for this type of collaboration, and thus, students are no longer passive recipients of knowledge, sitting at their desks and learning from the teacher and through workbooks/worksheets and drill/practice, but active learners, engaging in tasks as collaborative teams, and co-constructing their knowledge by building on the ideas of their peers and research. When there are many students in the classroom, additional perspectives are offered, thus enhancing the classroom environment. This diversity provides many more learning opportunities.</p> <p>This need for additional social interaction has been noted when RRPS has taken students to George O’Neill Public, Dorion Public and Nipigon Red Rock High School on field trips and excursions. We are committed to providing our students with social opportunities with other students. It is the learning in the classroom and on a more regular basis that would be most beneficial to students.</p> |
| <p>7. Why can’t older students come to RRPS from other schools?</p> | <p>The wellbeing all students is valued at SGDSB. The solution that we are presenting is the least disruptive.</p> |
| <p>8. Is there a way to start communication with St. Hilary?</p> | <p>The directors of the two boards meet at least three times a year and the two boards share the cost of transportation and frequently collaborate to offer staff professional development. Where possible, the schools collaborate to form teams for extra-curricular activities. Superior-Greenstone has publically stated that we are wishing to engage in dialogue designed to put students first and review the organization of schools in communities where enrolment is declining.</p> |
| <p>9. Can the children do recess with the other school (St. Hilary)?</p> | <p>This is possible and could be worked out between schools if this was seen as a priority and if the school schedules could be restructured. The addition of a half-hour recess would provide some support for the social learning of students, however it does not resolve the challenges that we face to maximize the academic learning environment in the classroom.</p> |
| <p>10. What is Dorion Public Schools capacity? Could we get a bus to Dorion?</p> | <p>The enrolment at Dorion Public School is 43 students currently. The option of providing bussing to the Dorion Public School has been explored and while the Dorion Public School is an excellent facility offering numerous programs and services, the distance from Red Rock to Dorion is 39 kilometers (versus from Red Rock to Nipigon which is 16 kilometers). This would require students to ride the bus for a longer period of time each day, thus requiring an earlier pick up and a later drop off time. Currently, there are 5 students who ride the bus from Red Rock</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| | and from the Red Rock highway area to the George O'Neill Public School in Nipigon; these students would be impacted by a decision to provide bussing to Dorion Public School instead of to the George O'Neill Public School. In addition, Highway 11/17 between Nipigon and Red Rock will soon be twinned, thus improving safety. |
| 11. Can we use part of the school for seniors? | We have welcomed user groups to the building. |
| 12. If students move, what happens to the Early Years Center? Where will others in the building go? | The future of the Ontario Early Years Center would be part of the discussions that would take place upon the completion of the Modified Pupil Accommodation Review and the decision that results. Currently, with the Early Years Modernization strategy, the location of all Ontario Early Years Centers is being discussed in partnerships with Ontario Early Years, School Boards, and Municipalities. Superior-Greenstone District School Board does operate another facility in Red Rock and it would be our hope, if the decision is made to close Red Rock Public School, that the Ontario Early Years Centers would relocate there. |
| 13. How does Nakina house both Catholic and Public Schools under the same roof? | <p>Historically, this arrangement was made during a time when this was the focus of the Ministry of Education. The building was originally designed to house the three school boards and the municipal library.</p> <p>The library, gymnasium, change rooms, and common entry area, along with the Nakina Public School building, all reside on property owned by Superior Greenstone. The library is operated by Greenstone Municipality, under a formal agreement with SGDSB. Use of the space by all parties is worked out so that each organization has suitable access for their needs. Use of the gymnasium is coordinated between both schools in a similar fashion. Costs are shared through a sharing agreement.</p> |
| 14. Will the monies budgeted (Approximately \$685,000) for the next 5 years still be spent on the building or can it be delegated to GONPS? | The funds identified in the 5 Year Capital Plan are not budgeted at this time. Each year the needs of the entire board are assessed through the Plant Department budget process and needs are placed on the list for the year the need is expected. Following the annual review, items may end up funded, moved back a year, or moved back several years. Other priorities within the board will determine where items are placed. Only then will the items be put forward for funding consideration for the one coming budget year being prepared. |
| 15. If part of the school was rented, would that cover costs? 16. Would rent help pay for capital? | Every user group (Joint Use Partner) would have a contract drafted that outlines the terms and conditions under which the space would be used. Cost of the space to the user would form part of the contract. The calculation of cost is based on square footage used by Joint Use Partner, applied against the actual operating cost of the entire building. Effectively, if the entire building is occupied by Joint Use Partners, then the building would pay for itself. This would be an objective to achieve. |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>Under provincial legislation the rental fees the school board charges are strictly cost recovery.</p> |
|--|--|

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>Cost recovery for capital needs of the building is possible. It can be written into sharing agreements. However, it would raise the cost of using the space for the user groups.</p> |
|--|---|