

REPORT OF THE ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE
7:30 p.m. on 2009 June 17 at Princess Elizabeth Public School

Study Area # 13 - Beachville Public School, Harris Heights Public School, Princess Anne Public School, Princess Elizabeth Public School, Victory Memorial Public School, Westfield Public School

VOTING MEMBERS	ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS
<p>School Council: Beachville - Susie Williams Harris Heights - Teresa Cameron Princess Anne - Jim Turner Princess Elizabeth - Sherri Young Victory Memorial - Karen Gorza Westfield - Kim Broere</p> <p>Citizens: Beachville - David Elliott Harris Heights - Karyn Randall Princess Anne - Melanie Everets-Rodrigues Princess Elizabeth - Shari Hooper Victory Memorial - Kim Grant Westfield - Deb Gould</p> <p>Business: Chris Robinson Dave Eisen</p> <p>Municipal Representatives: Gerry Mitchell, Southwest Oxford Kristy VanKooten-Bossence, Town of Ingersoll</p> <p>ABSENT: David Elliott</p> <p>REGRETS: Mike Sereda</p>	<p>James Stewart, Trustee and Chair of Area Accommodation Committee Val Nielsen, Superintendent of Education Susan Van Aarsen - ARC Assistant</p> <p>Principals: Beachville - Barb Reid Harris Heights - Julia Schmalz Princess Anne - Terry Wilkins Princess Elizabeth - Lisa D'Ambrose Victory Memorial - Kerby Waud Westfield - Nicola Banks</p> <p>Board Resource Personnel:</p>

1. **WELCOME**
 J. Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting following the bus tour to Mitchell Hepburn PS in St. Thomas and apologized for the delay in the start of the meeting due to the tour. James introduced Valerie Nielsen replacing Mike Sereda as superintendent tonight and indicated that she would be speaking about the programming benefits for students in elementary schools of at least 400 students.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
 Approved - carried.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Great tour at Mitchell Hepburn PS which opened in October, 2008 in the SE area of St. Thomas which has an enrolment of approx. 480 students.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2009 MAY 27 MEETING

One omission - David Elliott, Beachville PS Citizen representative missing from committee list. Approved - carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Gil Owens unable to be at this meeting but will attend the September 23rd meeting to do boundary presentation (Edulog Program)

6. COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

6.1 SCHOOL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

None

6.2 CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVES

None

6.3 BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES

None

6.4 MUNICIPAL LEADERS

None

7. PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

(a) GROUPS

- none received

(b) INDIVIDUALS

- none received

(c) CORRESPONDENCE

- none received

8. NEW BUSINESS

Presentation by V. Nielsen on Programming Benefits of 400 FTE Elementary Schools Flyer distributed. (Appendix A attached)

Question - Smaller schools seem to have more of a personal touch, more one on one interaction etc. What is out there that would indicate that larger schools are better?

Class sizes are the same in both small and large schools, ie: primary cap at 20 as directed by the Ministry. The administration does take the time to get to know all the students in both school sizes. Provincial average for school enrolment is approx. 300 students. Mitchell Hepburn, for example, has 484 students and 22 classrooms. In a school of approx. 500 students, this would allow for about 2 classrooms for each grade. Harris Heights has enrolment of 571 and Victory Memorial has 350. There was an acknowledgment that "small" and "large" schools are relative terms, that vary from board to board.

9. QUESTIONS / COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS

The following questions were received from committee members and the community.

Question - Is an instrumental music program standard for all schools?

Instrumental music would be offered to grade 7 and 8 students if there is a teacher qualified to provide the program and if there is space for it.

Question - How is the Beachville community feeling about 29 of their students going to Woodstock and could they not have been involved in the Woodstock ARC?

It was felt that some members of the Beachville community are very concerned about the splitting of their students. It is thought that some feel that they will be ripped away from their peers, parents will have to redo child care arrangements etc. They were not told that the school community would be split up until recently. James Stewart stressed the importance of public input and asked the Beachville representatives to see about doing this for the next meeting.

Question - Is there any more input from communities with respect to French Immersion and before and after school daycare?

May wish to look at before and after school daycare but it seems a little too late for French Immersion as not enough interest expressed. Mitchell Hepburn expressed an interest in having bigger developmental and activity rooms.

Question - What are the entry levels for French Immersion?

Entry levels for French Immersion is for grades SK, Gr. 1 and Gr. 7. If a recommendation comes forward for French Immersion, the committee could look at surrounding areas, ie. Tillsonburg, Dorchester etc. One alternative would be to offer it at Hillcrest PS if that school is vacated from an ARC study with some alterations completed.

Question - Do all the students get out of school at the same time?

Input was received regarding Harris Heights PS where all 571 students are all released at the same time. Teachers walk their students to the bus where there is a waiting area and 3 supervisors. The junior students in the portables are dismissed directly from the portables to the buses. For the bussed kindergarten students, they have bus buddies with the other kindergarten students waiting for their parents in a fenced area for pick up. There are no concerns with respect to dismissal of the students. Every school would have an organized system for dismissal. Administration at Mitchell Hepburn PS is pleased with the situation there and this could be passed along to the schools.

Question - Why are there no climbers at Mitchell Hepburn PS?

School councils often fund raise for this. When there is not a school that has been closed or consolidated, they have to start from scratch. Mitchell Hepburn PS have been using pavement games and an adjacent city park. If a school is closed, there is a transition committee that looks after things like climbers that could be relocated to the new or consolidated school location. Items such as Smartboards would go to the new school. Mitchell Hepburn PS has wiring in place in every classroom for the installation of proposed Smartboards in the future and the classrooms are very impressive.

Question - What is the standard for green space?

Kevin Bushell from facilities would be better to answer questions of this type. We will invite him to attend the September 23rd meeting, if possible, and if not, for the October meeting.

Question - How far does a student have to walk before busing takes place?

At the board meeting this week, the trustees have asked the administration to implement harmonized walking distances for students in the same way that it is operated by the coterminous Catholic board. This will not happen for September but will be done in the near future. The walking distances vary in terms of grades - Elementary Gr. JK-4, Elementary Gr. 5-8 and Secondary.

Question - How does the busing work when there are children in the family that fall within both grade levels, ie. one in gr. 1 and one in gr. 5 as the gr. 1 students would probably be bused and the gr. 5 student would walk?

Boundaries for busing will be changing, however, for situations like this, if there is room on the bus, there may be the possibility that both could ride it.

Question - Does the board take into account the lack of safe sidewalks when having students walk?

Working within the transportation policy, the board always applies their discretion on issues such as this.

Question - When talking about program considerations, has anything like a school for the arts been considered for the Ingersoll and surrounding areas, ie. L.B. Pearson School for the Arts in London?

This has not been considered and the board recognizes the fact that geographical challenges due to the size of the board, make it difficult. It was noted that no students are transported to the program at L.B. Pearson and all parents are responsible for the transportation of their children to this school and many do come a fair distance to attend there.

Question - Due to the fact that some program changes such as hospitality etc. will be incorporated into the renovations at College Avenue Secondary School in Woodstock, would students from Oxford County have the option of attending that school in place of going to Thames or Ross Secondary Schools for these courses?

These renovations will be completed in September, 2011 and boundaries will have to be set.

Question - Will there be an allowance for out of area students in the future?

The Ministry cap for primary classes is 20 and a cap may be put on other grades in the future. There must be guaranteed spots for those living in the areas of the school that would allow these students to enrol without going over the cap allowance. If we do the proper job in the ARC process, this will be less of a concern. If a child attends a daycare provider, they are not guaranteed they will get busing-it depends on whether the home address of the student qualifies for busing originally.

Question - Has before and after school daycare been considered for Oxford previously?

VMS did consider this before but the numbers did not warrant it. Critical mass may make this a better option. Smaller schools would not have a custodian in the early evening so this would not be an option there. The Pascal Report released this week points to some form of full day learning / child care that the Ministry is considering within the next couple of years but there are no details known yet on the logistics. Kevin Bushell builds the option of full day kindergarten in all the school designs.

Question - If Westfield closes, for example, and the gr. 6 students go to VMS, and then VMS closes and they go to Harris Heights for gr. 8, is it possible for the gr. 6 students to go to Harris Heights right away rather than change again in a year?

The committee could look at this point rather than students moving twice in two years.

Question - Is the board looking at more of a before and after school or a daycare that would be attached to the school?

These programs, such as those before and after school, are currently operated outside of the board. Part of the ARC recommendation could be that the board look at options to enter a partnership with outside agencies. "Full day 4-5" could be non-board staff, ie. kindergarten in the afternoon could be staffed with staff from other partnerships in the remainder of the day. The Ministry is looking at a number of different options for the future, and we anticipate that more details will be known soon.

- 10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**
2009 Sept 23 - 7:00 p.m. - Harris Heights PS
2009 October 7 - 7:00 p.m. - Princess Anne P.S.

- 11. ADJOURNMENT**
Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm. James wished the committee a safe and happy summer.

12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Date: 2009 September 23
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Harris Heights PS
2 Caffyn Street, Ingersoll

Gil Owens will be present to do a presentation from Edulog on boundaries. If you have any questions or scenarios with respect to boundaries, please bring them to the meeting for Gil to address. Kevin Bushell of Facility Services & Capital Planning will be invited to attend the September 23rd meeting as well to address any facility questions.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Submissions of public input requests should be directed to Susan Van Aarsen, ARC assistant by email at s.vanaarsen@tvdsb.on.ca; an individual presenter will have 5 minutes and a group presentation will be allowed 10 minutes; presenters should be aware that they can only present once during the course of the ARC

For Information

Public Input Requests must be received 8 business days prior to the next meeting, therefore, the date for the forms to be received for inclusion on the agenda for the September meeting would be Friday, September 11th with the agenda being posted on the website Wednesday, September 16th.

James Stewart
Chairperson
ARC #13

PROGRAM BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS OF AT LEAST 400 STUDENTS

FACILITY

Gymnasium	6000 sq ft	Large gym plus an activity room (primary physical education and quality daily p.e.)
Library	3000 sq ft	Three teaching areas - Story/Reading Area Teaching Area Computer Lab
General Arts	1000 sq ft	Designated space for music, drama, and visual arts
Learning Support	400+ sq ft	Designated space for small groups of students which does not utilize a regular classroom.

In addition to the above with a new school or a significant addition to a school the following facility needs can be reviewed and potentially improved:

Fire & Life Safety Upgrades	eg, fire alarms, sprinklers, separation of exits
Parking Lot	examination of safety and accessibility
Playground	examination of pavement area
Infrastructure	Improvements of ventilation, heating & air conditioning systems, interior finishes (eg, flooring, paint, ceiling, lighting, electrical distribution, lighting, asbestos abatement)

PROGRAM

Maximizing opportunities for a Professional Learning Community:

- ⇒ Staff sharing grade responsibilities
- ⇒ Staff sharing subject responsibilities
- ⇒ Staff sharing co-curricular responsibilities
- ⇒ Staff sharing division responsibilities
- ⇒ Enough staff for an “early years” division
- ⇒ Staff share the responsibilities for implementing new curriculum
- ⇒ Opportunities for mentors/ critical friends
- ⇒ Continuity from year to year within grade/division
- ⇒ Less impact when one key staff leaves the school
- ⇒ Opportunity for study groups

Increased number of students increases school budget allowing for more centralized resources; eg, Library, athletics, literacy

Increased number of staff members increases:

- ⇒ opportunities for specialization eg. The arts
- ⇒ increased time for librarian allocation therefore library staffed with specialist increased hours
- ⇒ increased Learning Support Teacher (>1.0) allocation to share responsibilities and increase focus on learning rather than administration
- ⇒ increased number of EAS allow for more flexibility in assignment and assistance to students
- ⇒ addition of a Vice Principal allowing an administrator to be on-site more often, have two instructional leaders to share learning responsibility with staff; increase leadership training for system
- ⇒ individuals available to volunteer for extra-curriculars

BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE

Students

- ⇒ Mixing of students year to year
- ⇒ Greater opportunity for friends
- ⇒ Greater flexibility to break up cliques/behaviour combination of students
- ⇒ Increased flexibility regarding supervision of students

Parents

- ⇒ Greater critical mass for volunteers for ongoing school activities and parent group members

Community Use

- ⇒ Greater facility space to be used by community eg. Gymnasium
- ⇒ Availability of more custodian time eg. After instructional day