

REPORT OF THE LONDON AREA 3 STUDY COMMITTEE Wednesday, April 23, 2008 7:00 p.m.

Brick Street, Manor & Highland Park Public School and Woodland Heights

VOTING MEMBERS	ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS
Michelle Burnett Beth Petersen Karen Henderson-Harrington Suzanne Obbema Lloyd Stevenson Deb Gregor Shelley VanderWeyst David Winner	Ruth Tisdale, Trustee Lyn Thompson, Principal, Brick Street P.S. Barb Lawson, Principal, Manor & Highland Park Linda Carswell, Principal, Woodland Heights Valerie Nielsen, Superintendent of Education Scott Hughes, Superintendent of Education

1. **WELCOME**

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Agenda was approved as printed.

3. **CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

R. Tisdale welcomed everyone to the meeting. R. Tisdale reviewed that the committee would be working through the process of providing suggestions and working together to complete a draft recommendation to respond to the Senior Administration's recommendation.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as printed. D. Winner apologized to the committee for not being present at the last meeting held on March 27, 2008.

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

V. Nielsen shared information with the committee following a request at the last meeting from S. Obbema about recent initiatives involving Green Education. A summary of recent Green Initiatives was distributed to the committee members.

6. **COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

M. Burnett asked if committee members would be ensured an opportunity to present proposals/recommendations that individuals/groups have written and brought with them to the meeting.

The answer provided was yes, all committee members would definitely have an opportunity this evening to provide suggestions for the draft Recommendation.

7. New Business

7.1 Development of Draft Recommendations for London Study Area 3 (Brick Street, Manor & Highland Park and Woodland Heights)

V. Nielsen provided the committee members with a DRAFT Recommendation outline using the draft template that all the ARCs are using within Thames Valley as a basis for which to start the report. Committee members were asked to confirm that the information was correct.

V. Nielsen provided the committee with a sheet outlining enrolment summary data from information provided at earlier meetings based on historical and projected October 31 data and Post ARC Facility data (attached).

D. Gregor stated that she thinks that the developmental classes at Woodland Heights are very important to the school and strongly advocates for those classes to remain at Woodland Heights.

M. Burnett and S. Obbema provided the committee with their proposal for review (attached), as did L. Stevenson (attached).

All committee members joined in the discussion and provided input into the process and suggestions for consideration as follows:

M. Burnett and S. Obbema suggested to keep all three schools open, each school has its own special merits; investigation of other services, use of Green Curricular initiatives and expand Grad 7/8 APPLE at Woodland Heights PS.;

S. VanderWeyst suggested staggering the closings, building the community alliance. Woodland Heights and Brick Street join first, followed by Manor & Highland (or other way around); consider boundary realignment with Victoria Public School;

K. Henderson-Harrington and D. Gregor suggested close one school, keep other two open. Woodland Heights and Brick Street are very similar, and fit well, with students already going to Woodland for Grades 7/8; keep Manor & Highland open. Keep Developmental Classes at Woodland Heights, keep APPLE as is for now, look at expansion in future years;

L. Stevenson and B. Peterson suggested close Brick Street School. Combine Brick Street and Woodland Heights schools. Enlarge borders for Manor & Highland Park to include students that attend Brick Street that live east of Beachwood. APPLE Program continue at Woodland Heights and expand to Grade 7/8 on a phased-in basis. Keep Special Education Program at Woodland Heights

M. Burnett and S. Obbema suggested staggered closings, based on enrolment levels. Keep Brick Street open. Manor and Woodland Heights combine in September 2009. Expand APPLE at Woodland Heights to Grade 7/8, keeping the rest of APPLE at Brick Street, starting Grade 7 in 2009, Grade 8 in 2010. Only amalgamate Brick Street if enrolment dictates. Establish a new school name if there are any amalgamations.

B. Peterson suggested that in the event that Brick Street closes, Penny Lane Park should be relocated to Woodland Heights

M. Burnett and S. Obbema suggested that if the Penny Lane Park cannot be relocated, create a committee to protect this space for future. Relocate the bell from Brick Street, if the school closes, to the park area.

M. Burnett and S. Obbema suggested establish a Kids Ark/Mulberry bus stop on transportation route for families.

D. Winner asked about the Board directions with respect to Victoria PS?

V. Nielsen responded that Victoria PS is not named in this ARC, or any other ARC at this point.

D. Winner asked about how French Immersion (FI) schools fit into this process. It is his impression that while some schools are experiencing declining enrollment FI schools seem to be above capacity.

R. Tisdale provided information that the preferred model is single track for French Immersion.

D. Winner stated that he originally had doubts about the ARC process, but that this process has been respectful in discussions and he is pleased that other school representatives are able to see the strengths of other schools and share those thoughts with the committee.

D. Gregor asked if a school is closed what is the process that the Board follows with respect to selling the building.

R. Tisdale stated that there are very specific policies from the Ministry of Education outlining the process for offering a school property for sale that must be followed.

R. Tisdale responded that she believes the coterminous Board is offered the property first and the municipality is consulted in the event that the coterminous Board is not interested.

M. Burnett asked if there are outside organizations that are interested in renting space in a school would that assist with capacity for the Ministry of Education. The answer was no.

M. Burnett requested checking on the validity of the data in regards to school facilities for the next meeting.

Following these discussions, five motions were made at the meeting

1. M. Burnett moved that TVDSB would proceed with staggered closings, based on enrolment. Manor & Highland Park to close in September, 2009, with students going to Woodland Heights. Brick Street school would amalgamate at Woodland Heights if enrolment levels dictate or decline. APPLE remains at Brick Street until grade 6. Grade 7/8 APPLE Program be established at Woodland Heights with Grade 7 in 2009, Grade 8 in 2010. Maintain developmental classes at Woodland Heights. Deliver Green Curriculum Initiatives through Penny Lane Park. Establish a new school name in the event of amalgamation.

Defeated

2. L. Stevenson made a motion that TVDSB close Brick Street PS and combine Brick Street PS and Woodland Heights PS at Woodland Heights PS in September 2009. Keep Manor & Highland Park PS open. Enlarge borders for Manor & Highland Park PS to include Brick Street PS students who are closer to Manor & Highland Park PS than they are to Woodland Heights. Continue APPLE program at Woodland Heights as it currently operates up to Grade 6 and expand to Grade 7 in 2010 and Grade 8 in 2011. Keep the Special Education classes for Developmentally Challenged students at Woodland Heights.

Passed

3. L. Stevenson also moved that Penny Lane Park be relocated to Woodland Heights PS.

Passed

4. S. Obbema moved that upon amalgamation, a new school name be established in place of Woodland Heights PS.

Passed

5. M. Burnett moved that a TVDSB transportation bus stop be established in the vicinity of Commissioners Road and Topping Lane to accommodate families of students who access child care facilities in this location.

Passed

Further to these motions S. Obbema also provided additional information on the needs of the relocation of Penny Lane Park, including, that it is important to consider all aspects of this special area. This would include the trees, bushes, plants, rocks, log, benches, signage, time capsule and marker rock and other pertinent items, including the bell from the original Brick Street School house. This could potentially be done in conjunction with ReForest London and Friends of the Coves, to be established in a new location, accessible to students and community members. A potential location for this could be the lower level of the back of Woodland Heights yard, making it usable in the spring and the fall by bringing in fill to raise the levels.

8. **Next Steps**

The Draft Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) report (attached) will be posted to the ARC website for public review and input on April 30, 2008. This will be followed by a public input meeting (**Wednesday, May 28, 2008 at Woodland Heights Public School, 7:00 p.m.**) after which final changes will be made if necessary.

The completed ARC report will be then forwarded to the Senior Administration for review before it is submitted to the Board of Trustees, along with the Senior Administration's recommendations which may or may not be revised.

To provide public input please forward all correspondence to s.piltman@tvdsb.on.ca and to make a public presentation at the next meeting, submit the "[ARC Public Input Form](#)" by **Thursday, May 15**, to the above or fax to 519-452-2329.

The ARC's final report will be sent to Senior Administration and it will then be forwarded on to the Board along with the recommendation of the Senior Administration. There will be an opportunity for public input to the Board, according to normal Board procedure. (Public presentations occur at the first Board meeting of the month as per general Board procedures. Persons or delegations who want to make a presentation to Trustees must apply in writing to the Supervisor-Corporate Services by completing a Presenters' Package describing the issue, and identifying the organization/individual represented. The form is available under the Presenters' Package link at <http://www.tvdsb.on.ca/public/presenters.shtml> or by contacting the Supervisor-Corporate Services at 519-452-2000 ext 20218.)

V. Nielsen stated that while public input is generally received at the first board meeting of the month, during the 60-day period following the Board's receipt of the Administrative Response to the ARC Report, the Board may schedule additional opportunities, if necessary, to accommodate requests to the Trustees.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

10. **NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, May 28, 2008 Woodland Heights PS at 7:00 p.m.