



## Accommodation Review Committee Haldimand Secondary Schools

Wednesday, January 22, 2014  
McKinnon Park Secondary School

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### MINUTES

**Present:** Brian Doyle – Trustee (Chair), Arlene Everets - Trustee, Marion Macdonald – Trustee, Andy Nesbitt - Superintendent of Education, Anthony Whitman - OSSTF, Lynn Dunstall – CUPE, Greg Carruthers – Principal, Cayuga Secondary School, David MacDonald, Acting Principal, Dunnville Secondary School, Leanne Majerovich, Principal, Hagersville Secondary School, Darren Duff, Principal, McKinnon Park Secondary School, Angela Crossen, Parent Rep, Cayuga Secondary School, Brenda Lofthouse, Parent Rep, Hagersville Secondary School, Kim Zeller, Parent Rep, McKinnon Park Secondary School, Lorne Boyko, Municipal Councillor, Haldimand County, Jenny Bryce, Chamber of Commerce Representative

**Regrets:** Carolyn O'Connor-McDaid

#### 1. [Welcome](#)

B. Doyle welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Haldimand Secondary School Accommodation Review meeting.

Other Board personnel in attendance included: Trustees – Carol Ann Sloat, Chair of the Board, Rita Collver, Don Werden and Student Trustee - Karissa Manning.

Administrative staff in attendance to provide resource included: John Forbeck - Director of Education, Jamie Gunn - Superintendent of Business, Dave Abbey – Assistant Superintendent of Education, Shawn McKillop, Public Relations Officer, Paul Kostelny, Principal Leader Student Success and Heather-Jo Causyn, Recording Secretary.

#### 2. [Review of Minutes – November 21, 2013](#)

Moved by J. Bryce

Seconded by M. Macdonald

THAT the minutes of the November 21, 2013 meeting be approved as presented.

Carried.

*Achievement*

*Environment*

*Engagement*



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### 3. ARC Committee Composition and Responsibility

#### 3.1 ARC Committee Composition

On November 11, 2013 the ARC Committee composition was approved in accordance with Board Policy FT5 - Pupil Accommodation Review. The Pupil Accommodation Policy (FT5) identifies the inclusion of two trustees as non-voting members but does not consider the fact that there are a significant number of tuition agreement students attending Haldimand Secondary schools. The Native Trustee, appointed by the Band Council, represents 401 tuition agreement students which is 80% of Grand Erie tuition agreement students and 20% of the total student population of Haldimand Secondary Schools. As potential ARC recommendations could impact tuition agreement students, the addition of Trustee Macdonald to the ARC committee was supported by the Band Council and approved by the Grand Erie District School Board.

#### 3.2 Responsibility of the ARC Committee

The Accommodation Review Committee has been established to determine the best possible solution for educating students in Haldimand secondary schools. Requests from committee members seeking information and clarification should be initiated and addressed by the Accommodation Review Committee. The outcome of this committee has not been predetermined.

### 4. Review of Completed Valuation Templates

The committee reviewed the valuation templates. The principals of the four secondary schools highlighted the unique programs at their respective school. To view the templates [click here](#).



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### 5. Presentation of Data

#### 5.1 Enrolment Forecast Methodology

J. Gunn presented information on the various sources used to ascertain future enrolment (ie., historic trends, feeder school enrolments, 5 year transition trends from grade 8 to secondary school, Statistic Canada population data, Haldimand County population data, residential development information, grade to grade transition, attrition rates). This information assists in providing reliable predictors for secondary student population over the next 10 year period. To view the information presented [click here](#).

#### 5.2 Options for Consideration of the Review Committee

J. Gunn presented options for consideration of the Review Committee:

- seek partnerships to create shared use of schools
- remove surplus space from school buildings
- review attendance boundary areas to direct more students to underutilized schools
- close Cayuga Secondary or Hagersville or Dunnville Secondary school and re-direct students to underutilized schools
- develop programming to attract additional students

[Click here for more information.](#)

### 6. Questions from the Committee

Q Contact was made with the Manager of Planning and Economic Department to determine if the information provided to the ARC Committee was up to date in regards to new developments. The plan for the McLung properties indicates a 20 year building period. In the presentation this evening 15 years was reported. Which is correct?

A The Planning Department indicated a 15-20 year period so we used the more optimistic build out of 15 years.

Q Could the cost of busing per student be provided?

A Busing information will be presented at a future meeting.



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Q What is the capacity of a portable? How many portables are at McKinnon Park Secondary School?  
Could additional portables be placed on site at McKinnon Park Secondary School?

A The Ministry rated capacity for a secondary school classroom, whether a regular classroom or a portable, is 21 students. There are 14 portables at McKinnon Park Secondary School. Before adding portables to a school site, consideration must be given to other items such as number of washrooms and electrical servicing capacity. At this time the McKinnon Park Secondary School site cannot accommodate any further portables.

C Within the Value to the Community it indicates that the stages in each of the secondary schools are not fully accessible. I would hope that this is something that will be corrected in the near future.

C The stage at McKinnon Park Secondary School is fully accessible.

Q The Cayuga Secondary School report indicates that the third floor is not fully accessible. What programs are offered on this floor?

A The third floor houses some math classrooms. If required classes are accommodated elsewhere within the school.

### 7. Questions from the Community

C The facts show over crowding of a secondary school and underutilization of other secondary schools. It is important to maintain a school based on the community it serves. Right sizing and shared accommodation sound like good options.

C Programs utilizing space outside of a school could be brought back into the secondary school.

C Concerned about attendance boundaries. Students that have left their home schools for programming needs should be brought back.

Q How long do students travel on a bus? Are there time limits?

C Surprised the overcrowding at McKinnon Park has continued as long as it has.

Q With talk about closing a school where would students go?



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- C If you were to close Dunnville Secondary School the students would go elsewhere. They will not go to the closest Haldimand school but would leave Haldimand County. Consideration should be given to changing the boundaries.
- C If a secondary school was given to the Catholic system parents would switch their children to the Catholic school in elementary.
- Q Where would special education students go if a secondary school was to close? They cannot ride a bus further. It is vital for the special needs students to have stability.
- C French Immersion students come from all over. Where do they go when they reach high school, Hamilton? These students could be incorporated in the local schools to bring them back into the local community.
- C I am a Counsellor at Six Nations. When I hear discussions in regards to boundaries I get concerned. I hope that this committee can come up with some good solutions. The majority of Native secondary students attend McKinnon Park Secondary School and Assumption College in Brantford. The Native students like McKinnon Park because they like the teachers, the atmosphere and the school. I would hate to see students be affected by changes to boundaries. The reserve has in the past talked about building a high school but has not taken the steps to do it. That discussion is an option and would certainly affect the enrolment numbers. We are looking for positive and beneficial solutions.
- Q The Board is concerned about cost when it comes to three underutilized secondary schools. If a school were to close what is the cost involved in losing students? What is the cost for moving boundaries?
- C With declining enrollment we offer less. We work hard at our school to offer as much as we can to the students.
- C Part of the issue is the 15 portables at McKinnon Park Secondary School. Don't understand how the portables got approved. McKinnon Park Secondary School should be a walking school and not a bus school.
- A We will work on putting answers together and bring them to the next meeting.



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Q Why are smaller housing developments not considered? A couple hundred new houses could add to the student population.

C Offering an International Baccalaureate Program would attract students from private and Catholic schools.

Q Has the Board taken into account what would happen to a town if the school were to close?

### 8. Other Business

None

### 9. Confirmation of Meeting Dates and Locations

Future meetings have been scheduled to be held on:

Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Dunnville Secondary School

Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Hagersville Secondary School

Brian Doyle thanked the committee members and community for their support in the review process.

All information will be posted on the Grand Erie website: [www.granderie.ca](http://www.granderie.ca). Click on the banner located on the top of the homepage that reads: Haldimand Secondary - Accommodation Review Committee.

Questions should be emailed to [info@granderie.ca](mailto:info@granderie.ca)

Public inquiries can be made through Shawn McKillop, Manager of Communications and Community Relations 519-756-6301 extension 281147.