



Accommodation Review Committee Haldimand Secondary Schools

Tuesday, March 25, 2014
Hagersville Secondary School

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, Carolyn O'Connor-McDaid, Parent Rep., Dunnville 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

1. Welcome

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

Other Board personnel in attendance included: Trustees – Rita Culver, David Dean, 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, Paul Kostelny, Principal-Leader, Shawn McKillop, Manager of Communications and Community Relations, Michelle O-Reilly – Planning Officer, and Heather-Jo Causyn, Recording Secretary.

2. Review of Minutes – March 5, 2014

**Motion by L. Boyko
Seconded by J. Bryce**

**THAT the minutes of the March 5, 2014 meeting be approved as presented.
CARRIED.**

3. Presentation of Data – Follow Up From Previous Meeting

J. Gunn and A. Nesbitt presented information as follows:

- 3.1 Secondary French Immersion
- 3.2 Attendance Boundaries and Out of Catchment Attendance
- 3.3 Portables – Operating Costs
- 3.4 Facility Renewal Costs By Year
- 3.5 Student Transition Grade 8 to Secondary
- 3.6 Satellite Campuses
- 3.7 a) Areas in Secondary Schools that can be Shared or Removed



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b) Reduction of Surplus Spaces Following Right-Sizing or Shared Use of Schools

4. Discussion Regarding Options

Options discussed included:

- That all Haldimand County Guidance Teachers work together to convince students from Six Nations and New Credit to choose Grand Erie schools
- Partner with post-secondary institutions (Mohawk, Fanshawe, etc. to utilize space in our secondary schools)
- Potential site for French Immersion program at the secondary level at one of the four schools where space is available
- Partner with daycare providers
- Trades-oriented/apprenticeship programs (training centres)

Cayuga Secondary School

- School will remain open
- Partnership with Haldimand County Public Library to move into Cayuga Secondary
- Build a focus program in the agriculture sector
- Partner with Mohawk College

Dunnville Secondary School

- School will remain open
- Right-size Dunnville Secondary School (use classroom space to build new library)
- Build a focus program in the agriculture sector

Hagersville Secondary School

- School will remain open
- Partnership with Hospital
- Medical (Health and Wellness) Specialist High Skills Major program

McKinnon Park Secondary School

- School will remain open

5.0 Questions from the Committee

Q Will the other information requested but not presented this evening be presented at the next meeting?

A Yes.



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Q If a decision is made to go with right-sizing schools, Cayuga Secondary School could realize 138 spaces, which is still under capacity of 242, Dunnville Secondary School 240 which is still under capacity of 265 and Hagersville Secondary School 114 which is still under capacity of 298. Are those figures something that would be acceptable by the Ministry or are we going to look at other ways to reduce surplus spaces?

A The Committee could search and find other ways to reduce spaces along with right-sizing schools. The Committee could recommend, to the Trustees, various ways to reduce surplus spaces in order to get as close to eliminating the 1,000 surplus spaces as possible.

Q Why do McKinnon Park Secondary School and Cayuga Secondary School share approximately 100 kms of catchment area?

A We would need to research the history surrounding boundaries. It has been a long standing tradition that students living in that area have been given the option of attending either Cayuga or McKinnon Park.

C We should look at areas where students are bused and where savings could be realized by relocating them.

C We could consolidate programs and potentially realize savings as long as programming is not being compromised.

C The Committee should consider making a recommendation outside of the final report in regards to capital funding from AANDC for Tuition Agreement students. This is unfair treatment.

Q What is happening with New Credit? Has an attempt been made to invite New Credit to be a part of this Committee?

A We have reached out to New Credit but have not had a conversation with them as of yet.

Q Are 100 spaces for French Immersion students protected and part of the spaces that will exist in 2024?

A Yes, the French Immersion students account for 100 student spaces in future enrolment numbers.

C Information received from Dianne McCollum in regards to offering an agriculture program was shared with the Committee and will be posted on the Board's website.

Q How many Haldimand students are attending a school outside of Haldimand but remain in Grand Erie?

A We do have that information but not with us this evening. There would be students that flow in both directions.

C We want to provide innovative programming to attract students that go outside of our Board for their secondary education (ie., catholic school, private school). Program staff could be directed to look at innovative ideas (ie., Cayuga Secondary offer technical and commercial courses, agriculture program). This is an agriculture community where there is plenty of skill and expertise to put an agriculture program together and make an attractive package.

C There could be speciality areas in each school (ie., Cayuga Secondary School – trade, Hagersville Secondary School – academic, Dunnville – agriculture).



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- C Delegations could provide us with more ideas. Members of the community could come up with suggestions and make a delegation. If a community loses a school it effects the whole community.
- C At the last meeting there was someone who spoke about concerns regarding small schools and a reduction in program choices and opportunities for students. Small schools are better, it provides us with opportunities to teach our students better, larger schools do not allow students to be recognized (ie., sporting teams). We need to work very hard to keep all of our small schools.
- Q By the next meeting could we pursue New Credit to become a part of this process? New Credit could bus their students anywhere and we want to ensure that they remain in Haldimand County. As well, I would like an answer from Trustees regarding portables and why it got to this point.
- A We will take this to Senior Administration and try to get an answer for the next meeting.
- Q Once we have completed our recommendations what are the next steps?
- A Requested information will be presented and delegations heard at the April 9th meeting. A meeting will be held on April 30th to finalize the recommendations for each school. A final meeting will then be scheduled to present, to the public, the committee's final report. The report will then be provided to the Director and Trustees of the Board. Final decisions are made at the Board level which could take place in and around September.

6.0 Questions/Comments from the Community

- Q In regards to small schools we need to keep in mind what the typical size of small secondary school should be to ensure all programming is offered. What would the Board consider a typical sized rural school?
- A In Haldimand and Norfolk the average size is 300-400 excluding McKinnon Park and Simcoe Composite which have a larger student population.
- Q If we were to right-size Dunnville Secondary School would grants be available to do this or would capital funding be used?
- A We would apply for additional funding. Direct capital grant funding is better suited for this type of project than using annual Facility Renewal funding.
- Q In regards to catchment areas, does a student have an opportunity to go to any school they want?
- A Depending on program requirements students could attend a school outside of their catchment area but we are not always able to provide busing. Unless there is busing available the family may have to provide their own transportation.
- Q Does each school in Haldimand have their own programming?
- A Correct.
- Q The agriculture sector is a great idea but why couldn't we have that program in all four schools and have the teacher move around to each school to provide the program? There is a hockey program in Caledonia where students leave Hagersville or Dunnville to go to McKinnon Park for the program. I can understand special needs but I am unclear about program development.
- A There are a lot of programs that are identical in the four secondary schools particularly for grades 9 and 10. These students require 5 compulsory and 3 optional credits. Grade 11 and 12



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programs have a little more flexibility and can be specialized programs. Cayuga Secondary School may offer courses that McKinnon Park does not. Some courses overlap but over time new programs could be introduced. With specialized programs you require staff members with specialized qualifications/training to teach the programs.

- Q Why are students from Haldimand going to other schools? Obviously it is for programming. How many students are needed to offer a program.
- A You would have to ask them. If an agriculture program was implemented you would need 22 or more students to offer it. You may get 9 or 10 students at each school so would be unable to offer the program at each school. But put the students together in one school and you may get enough students to offer the program.
- C Connecting with Mohawk College is a good idea but programming should be shared amongst all four schools.
- C If Mohawk College were to rent the entire tech wing at Cayuga Secondary the school could become a trade school. When a grade 12 student graduates from secondary school they could be part way through their apprenticeship program and could end up with a trade. Diane Finley was ecstatic with the thought. We could look at our programs and rework them around Mohawk College's program.
- C Congratulations to the committee for taking on this task. There are 45 New Credit students at Hagersville Secondary School. New Credit is a tuition paying entity. I like the idea of having a school concentrated program such as a technical or commercial. It used to be that students from Cayuga and Caledonia came to Hagersville for grade 13. At that time grade 13 was not offered at those schools. We have a hospital next door that could provide a partnership. Dunnville has the same opportunity. Staff members have many different ideas. The committee should ask staff for input.
- C I am a volunteer within an organization that utilizes the fields at Hagersville Secondary School from May to the end of August. If we were to lose the property and support 250 children would not have anywhere to play soccer in Haldimand as we don't have anywhere else to play. This would take a big opportunity away from our children in Haldimand.
- C Many staff members have suggestions as to how we would like to see our schools. Building new programs is fine but if you lose the teacher that supports the program you will not have a program. That happened at Hagersville with lacrosse as the teacher was new he was not protected. We need to protect the program by protecting the teachers.
- C Hagersville Secondary School could partner with the hospital to offer courses such as PSW, medicine, etc.
- C Consideration should be given to a day care that could use surplus space within a school. People who work in Hamilton take their children with them and then become familiar to the area so stay there.
- Q Do people in the schools need to be under the age of 18? Could we look into Education Works programs that could be affiliated with Mohawk College. The program could be for adults that are changing careers and are in need of retraining. This would eliminate travel for adults to participate in these programs.



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- A The Board receives funding for high school students under the age of 21. What you are referring to could be accomplished through partnerships with college providers which could provide for adult learning within the space of a high school.
- C We need to look for partnerships for each of the three secondary schools – Cayuga, Dunnville and Hagersville.
- C People do not realize how lucky we are to live here and we need to do everything we can to save our schools. Has consideration be given to the greenhouses that are located at Hagersville and McKinnon Park? We could assist in beautifying our towns. I would like to see my grandchildren graduate here, so please do what you can to keep the schools open.
- Q Would adult students count in our numbers?
- A Anyone over the age of 21 would not count in our numbers. However, leasing of space to partners would assist in the removal of surplus space.
- C Hagersville Secondary School has the potential to accommodate a non-profit day care. Non-profit day cares have access to grants and money to assist in making a school viable. This type of partnership could service approximately 117 children and 15 employees. Consideration would need to be given to reduced rental costs as we are a non-profit day care provider that would make a good partner. Consideration could also be given to co-op placements and a partnership with Mohawk College that would assist Early Childhood Educator placements in elementary and secondary schools.
- C The option of day care or before and after school care could be considered at any of the high schools.
- C Cayuga could partner with Mohawk College to offer a trades/apprenticeship program. The Province is purposing that trade opportunities be made available all over. Training centres for skilled trades could also be considered. Students no longer need to attend a post-secondary facility to get into a trades program.

7. Next Meetings

The ARC would now like to receive feedback and ideas from members of the community. The next ARC meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9th beginning at 7 pm at McKinnon Park Secondary School where the committee will receive presentations from delegations.

Another meeting has been scheduled for April 30th beginning at 7:00 pm at Cayuga Secondary School.

B. Doyle thanked our hosts Hagersville Secondary School, the committee, administration and the community for their support with the Accommodation Review process.

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



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Questions should be emailed to info@granderie.ca

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

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