



# North Brant Elementary Accommodation Review Committee

Thursday, January 14, 2016 – 7:00 PM  
North Ward Public School – Gymnasium

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## Meeting Notes

### In Attendance:

**W. Baker** (Facilitator) – Superintendent of Education, **Rita Collver** – Trustee, **Tom Waldschmidt** – Trustee, **Jennifer Kyle** – Parent Representative, Burford Elementary School **Melissa Warren** (late arrival) – Parent Representative, Cobblestone Elementary, **Pam Barrowcliffe** – Parent Representative, North Ward Public School, **Joan Faux** – Parent Representative, Paris Central.

Brenda Blancher - Director of Education, Mary Ann Shay, Principal – Burford Elementary, Jeff Senior – Principal, Cobblestone Elementary, Cathy Shaheen – Principal, North Ward Public School, Sharon Lytle – Principal, Paris Central, and Grand Erie District School Board administrative staff: Jamie Gunn – Superintendent of Business, Shawn McKillop – Manager of Communications and Community Relations, and Wendy Slaven – Recording Secretary, were in attendance to provide resource to the Committee.

Other Board members present: David Dean – Chair of the Board, Trustees John Harris, Karen Sandy, Carol Ann Sloat, and Diane Sowers.

### 1. Welcome

W. Baker, Facilitator of the Committee, welcomed Committee members and those present in the audience to the third meeting of the North Brant Elementary Accommodation Review Committee.

### 2. Meeting Notes – Dec. 2/15

W. Baker reported that the Dec. 2/15 notes were posted on the Board website.

- Revisions noted:
  - No changes will be made prior to September 2017;
  - Burford Elementary School was invited to join the ARC.

### 3. Review of Nov. 3/15 and Dec. 2/15 Meetings

- W. Baker presented Summary Notes which will be posted on the Board's website
- Dual track French Immersion presented as an option for Paris Central
- No significant feedback has been received from community partners

### 4. Community Questions

*(C – Comment, Q – Question, R – Response)*

C Many questions have been glossed over and have not been addressed.  
R It is the ARC mandate to ensure questions are answered.

C Have not done a good job of addressing – feel decision has been made.  
R No decision has been made – still looking for feedback and input. Once report goes to trustees, there will be another opportunity to speak to the Board at a delegation night.

- Q When will the decision be made?  
R Report will be posted on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> and presented to the Board for information on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>. There will be a delegation opportunity on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> – no decision will be made earlier than 10 business days following.

Elementary French Immersion Consultation Committee will start meeting in February and finish in May - Trustees may decide to wait until after May

If parents in Paris Central catchment area choose another school – would require Out of Area form, and there has to be space at the other school.

- C FI was going to be growing at Burford, now talking about moving to Paris.  
R We felt decision to change boundaries was rushed, so stopped the process and came back to table. No decision has been made – at this point Burford adds Gr. 5 this year.

- Q Is there a reason to move students out of Burford other than to help Paris?  
R Original cohort was small, but is growing substantially – would not be able to sustain a large cohort, so need to find more FI places.

- C Worried if FI grades 6, 7, and 8 are moved to Paris and English is declining – parents may move from FI to English to keep them at Burford – don't want kids bused.  
R We have to look at all eventualities.

- Q Is Paris Central going to stay open if FI comes, either K-8 or 6-8?  
R We will have to determine what that looks like.

- C Don't want one child going to Burford and another to Paris Central

## 5. Committee Comments and Questions

Pam Barrowcliffe - North Ward Public School

- Thanked parents for showing the passion of their community;
- Lots of great ideas to keep Paris open, and trust that Trustees will make the right decision;
- Review catchments;
- Understand feelings if the school closes – North Ward looks at Paris Central as part of community, would welcome them and work together.

Jennifer Kyle – Burford Elementary School

- Burford is newest member – impressed with passion demonstrated by Paris Central;
- Figure out best solutions for all kids involved- Burford happy to be part of solution;
- Understands busing concerns.

Joan Faux - Paris Central

- Close knit students and dedicated staff – thanked parents and community for being so involved.
- Deep feelings shared and thoughtful responses extremely encouraging, beneficial to have caring parents.
- Process has been complicated and difficult to follow, confusing, critical data changed over time, answers to questions have been confusing, resulting in frustration for the Paris Central community.

- Stability is lost, less confident about sending children to the school – would like to see questions about the future of the school resolved.
- Options put forward by Paris Central community:
  - Maintain Paris Central with regular program – Fall 2015 enrolment decline caused by uncertainty.
  - Place hold on approvals of transfers out of Paris Central to prevent further deterioration pending decision.
  - Implement dual-track at a number of schools in Brant County to prevent loss of students to other school boards.
  - Implement dual-track at Paris to allow participation of local students starting at Kindergarten.
  - Amend current catchment of Paris to include residential development and maintain regular spaces for elementary program.

Melissa Warren – Cobblestone Elementary

- Overwhelming to see Paris Central support – we will welcome with open arms;
- Confusing enrolment numbers, would like to see plans for future, if development changes.

Rita Collver - Trustee

- Appreciate feedback, we didn't inform parents about the expectations and will ensure future ARC informs parents.
- We hear community concerns – send in anything further.
- Thank you for going through the process. We will review process – first time this has been used – open to changes and concerns – see the advantages, but also the shortfalls.
- Look forward to continued dialogue.

Tom Waldschmidt - Trustee

- Thanked people for coming, showing their passion, and parent reps for giving their time.
- His four children have gone to Paris Central, has been part of his life.
- All efforts will be made to keep the school open, will consider options.

## 6. Next Steps

Report to Trustees will be posted on February 5, 2016.

## 7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

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