



GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

*Head Office, 349 Erie Avenue
Brantford, ON N3T 5V3*

Special Board Meeting July 9, 2012, 6:00 p.m. Port Dover Composite School

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Trustees: R. Collver, Chair, J. Angus, D. Dean, E. Dixon, B. Doyle, A. Everets, B. Johnston, C. Lefebvre, M. Macdonald, C.A. Sloat, D. Werden

Administration: Director — J. Forbeck; Superintendents — W. Baker, J. Gunn, M. McDonald, A. Nesbitt; Recording Secretary — D. Fletcher

REGRETS:

Trustees: P. Fleetwood (Student Trustee) B. Featherston (Student Trustee)

Administration: G. Anderson, B. Blancher

A – 1 Opening

(a) Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair, R. Collver at 6:00 p.m.

In Camera Session was added to the agenda as E-1, to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: J. Angus

THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.

Carried

B – 1 Delegations

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: J. Angus

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board hear the delegations from Shelby Balcomb, Elizabeth Schuyler, Paul Morris and Scott Bravener that were received today prior to 4:00 pm.

Carried

The following delegations were read regarding the Norfolk Secondary School Accommodation Review and the proposed motion by D. Werden (C-1-a).

- (a) Delegation – Becky Pow

B. Doyle and M. Macdonald arrived at 6:09 p.m.

- (b) Delegation – Shelby Balcomb

B. Johnston thanked her for delegation and asked her to clarify what her thoughts would be if the decision was made to continue to offer grade 9 for one more year. Would that help in terms of comfort knowing that she could spend grade 9 at PDCS but move to another school. S. Balcomb wishes to start at Port Dover Composite School.

- (c) Delegation - Elizabeth Schuyler
- (d) Delegation - Paul Morris
- (e) Delegation - Scott Bravener

C – 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Minutes**

- (a) **Motion – Trustee Werden** (from June 25, 2012)

D. Werden asked for an update on the current enrolment numbers at Port Dover Composite School (PDCS) for 2012-2013 school year. Adding 14 extra sections to staff for 154 students will cost the Board \$372,000.

M. McDonald clarified that there are not enough students to pay for those 14 extra sections, with the declining enrolment.

M. Dulmage stated that currently a total of 95 students are registered for 2012-2013:

- Grade 9 - 22 students
- Grade 10 - 13 students
- Grade 11 - 29 students
- Grade 12 - 31 students

B. Johnston indicated his two concerns of staying in accordance with policy and bylaw and the difficulty of providing programming for 100 students. He suggested the option of moving senior programming to Simcoe Composite School (SCS), and keep grade 9 and 10 here for the coming year school year with consideration of options in October 2012.

J. Angus would like to consider the policy and not delay, however programming for students will drive her decision. She requested administration to explain the process and transition committee for students and teachers, and about the funds required for teaching to ensure students have the programs they need.

J. Forbeck addressed B. Johnston's question about relocating programs for grade

11 and 12. Although it is simple, the ARC process refers to relocation of significant numbers as a school closure. He spoke about the impact of mandatory courses and combined classes for grade 9 and 10.

A. Nesbitt discussed how preliminary discussions have occurred with him, D. Abbey and M. Dulmage regarding a Transition Committee. He further commented on the organization around teachers' timetables and OFFSA eligibility. The vision would be to move quickly by meeting with families and providing orientation into SCS. Timetables would be established with recognition of their program choices made for PDCS.

A. Everets emphasized the importance of balancing the Board's legal obligation with Ministry policy and what is best for students. She referred to the Hamilton District School Board and the closing of the secondary schools, and requested administration to consider the possibility of the Magnet Program

Moved by: A. Everets

Seconded by: J. Angus

THAT BL11 be suspended to hear the delegation by S. Talos.

S. Talos read his delegation.

D. Dean believes that if we close PDCS on August 31, 2012, this decision will be appealed. The school will continue to open with significant financial consequences and credibility of the Board damaged further. The effects of contravening our own policy will affect future ARC processes, with the value of policies and procedures reduced. He recognized the challenge of opening up PDCS in September as parents continue to transfer students.

B. Doyle is concerned about the fairness of the process and the legal ramifications, and that the costs would be higher to close than to follow due process. The final result is school closure, and believes it is important to finish where you start. He recommended the option of moving part of the school to SCS. Parents and students need time to process this closure.

C.A. Sloat stated that the ARC process was followed, and that the Ministry guideline calls on senior administration for recommendations. She is proud of every school, no matter the size. It is difficult to rescind a board policy however quality education will be given to students in September. She recommended a possible closure in January 2012 or an offering a Magnet Program. She is proud of principals and senior administration and parents providing their comments this evening.

D. Werden recapped his concerns about keeping the Board legal and doing what is right for students. Parents have voiced concerns to close it sooner than later. His real concern is the students and feels their options will be limited.

R. Collver recognizes this is not easy and thanked everyone for their patience, dedication and for sharing their comments.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: B. Johnston

That the Grand Erie District School Board, as allowed by By-Law BL 16, suspend the following procedure in Policy FT5. Under the heading "Procedures" 3 - c 4th paragraph (4th bullet).

"The Board's administration report and recommendations will be presented to a Committee of the Whole Board. The Board of Trustees will vote on the recommendations no earlier than 60 days from the date of the Board meeting following the Committee of the Whole meeting. This shall not include summer vacation, Christmas and March break and the adjacent weekends to these holidays. The report and recommendations of administration shall be made available to the public when it is presented to the Trustees."

And that the Grand Erie District School Board close Port Dover Composite School as a secondary school effective August 31, 2012.

And that administration reviews the Norfolk secondary catchment boundaries and brings a report to the Board at the second Committee of the Whole Board in October 2012 with a recommended realignment.

And that the students in the Port Dover Composite catchment area are provided bussing to Simcoe Composite School effective September 1, 2012 and that the current express bus to Waterford District High School from Port Dover be continued.

And that a transition committee, as per Policy FT9, be convened as soon as possible to help ensure a smooth transition for Port Dover secondary students into other GEDSB secondary schools.

Defeated

J. Angus inquired about the financial implications and next steps for planning in the fall to support the students with their programming needs.

J. Forbeck is committed to bringing back reports in August and continued reports as requested leading to an October decision. As the numbers decline, discussions with the Union (OSSTF) will be essential to provide the quality programming. He discussed the allocation of staff for PDCS for September, and class caps in regards to teachers as outlined in the collective agreement. A. Nesbitt confirmed the school is ready to open in September 2012.

D. Werden questioned if grades nine to 12 remain at PDCS for a full year, will there be a guarantee that the number of courses will be offered and the programming maintained.

There are more than enough teachers here and timetables are built, but how would the loading issues at SCS be resolved with cap sizes. He voiced a concern about costs.

A. Everets proposed supporting a Magnet Program.

The trustees agreed that senior administration will follow up with their teams to consider and to incorporate creative ideas, including a communication plan for parents.

D – 1 Correspondence

(a) Minister of Education re: Child Care

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: A. Everets

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the correspondence as information.

Carried

E – 1 In Camera Session

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: C. Lefebvre

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss personnel and legal matters at 7:40 p.m.

Carried

Open Session reconvened at 8:34 p.m.

F – 1 Adjournment

Moved by: J. Angus

Seconded by: A. Everets

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Carried

Board Chair, R. Collver