

**UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
**BUSINESS OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

June 8, 2010

The Business Operations Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, June 8, 2010, in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, Ontario commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Busuttil, Chair, presided and the following Trustees were present: Bailey, Borden, Edwards, Gohn, Moziar, Schieck, Topping and Waterston together with Student Trustees Cooper and Steau.

Present from the Administration were Superintendents Benallick, Boswell, Fyfe, McDonald and Wright; J. Alder, Manager of Plant Operations; D.S. Cuomo, Manager of Planning; M. McFadzen, Communications Officer; J.L. Rose, Executive Officer of Human Resources; P. Scinocca, Manger of Capital and Renewal Projects.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Trustee Busuttil informed members of the following amendments to the agenda:

**Delegations:**

**Central Guelph Accommodation Review**

2. Delegation: Eva Julien - deleted from the agenda

**Dufferin FI Review**

1. Delegation: Lori McNeil-Chong  
- the delegation is by Elyse Johanis in the form of a letter being read by Lori McNeil-Chong.
8. Delegation: Jill Bauer  
- A letter from Jill Bauer will be read by Lori McNeil-Chong

Trustee Moziar moved that the agenda be approved as amended with items 13 through 17 to be considered in camera.

The motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Trustee Waterston moved that the Minutes of the Meeting of May 11, 2010 be approved as recorded.

The motion carried.

## **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

## **OPEN SESSION**

## **DELEGATIONS**

### **Central Guelph (FI) Accommodation Review**

1. **Sarah Harwood**

Sarah Harwood, a parent of students at King George and Paisley Road schools, addressed the Trustees. Copies of the presentation were circulated at the meeting. She acknowledged the positive results achieved by the ARC in consolidating three low enrolment schools in close proximity in the south (Priory Park, FA Hamilton and Jean Little) to secure better programming and more stability for the children while questioning the decision to preserve Victory PS as a dual track school even though there will be only 4 regular track classrooms including a grade 1,2,3 split class and a grade 4, 5, 6 split class. Ms. Harwood addressed the ARC process and relayed concerns she has heard from parents regarding who was involved and how the process of engagement unfolded along with her concern that there was no structure provided by the ARC to gather input from the school communities. Moving forward she noted there are only four scenarios to be considered which provides a better position to engage parents in a decision because it is urgent, concrete, imminent and tangible. By having the right people participate and a process that can be trusted, an outcome can be reached that can be believed in. Ms. Harwood suggests re-engaging the French immersion schools from the ARC who in 2011 will be affected (John McCrae, Victory, Edward Johnson, Paisley and King George) and to engage the schools and programs that will potentially be affected by the outcome (Gateway, gifted 4-8, Waverley – RT, DD and MID). An opportunity could be provided to rank and/or comment on each of the four short-listed scenarios in order to achieve a positive outcome.

2. **Bill Mullin**

Bill Mullin, a parent of a student at John McCrae School addressed the Trustees. He expressed concern for the rapid decision of the Board to implement Scenario U10 Staff Variation and that there had not been appropriate consultation with the Waverley Drive school community who would be significantly impacted by the decision. He felt that input should be solicited from the regular track school that would be receiving 145 grade 7/8 FI students and begin delivering dual track programs. In addition the change would bring the ratio of grade 7/8 students in the school to 65%, which is twice what is recommended in the Board's guiding principles. Mr. Mullin felt there should be an opportunity for the Waverly families to educate themselves on the situation and to consult with other ARC schools regarding the introduction of dual track and how it would impact current programs and their school community.

### 3. Michaela Milde

Michaela Milde, a former ARC member and a parent of a student in the King George FI program addressed Trustees. Copies of the presentation were circulated at the meeting. She first addressed the ARC process and highlighted the mandate of the Committee. Ms. Milde indicated consensus was never reached on the main issue of FI 7/8 and expressed concern that the core values of FI 7/8 were not acknowledged in the ARC report. Concern was also expressed that there was not consistency in the public input from the different schools. As there were no guidelines on how and when to gather feedback, reliable data was not received from all the schools. It was noted that the ARC was not able to find a single clear solution and the scenarios were not ranked. Ms. Milde was concerned that scenario NS-14 had been marginalized by being labelled as a minority report, fact that is irrelevant at this point in the process. She then spoke against scenario U 10 as it is the only short-listed scenario that could not be supported by the 7/8 FI community as it creates disparity between north and south Guelph, with a marginal, unsupported FI program at Waverley and a bare-bones 7/8 program at John McCrae. In addition U/10 creates not only a school with 65% grade 7/8 students, but a divided school with regular track, French immersion, DD and potentially a fading grandfathered gifted program, all competing for resources. The scenario does not lead to NS-15 and does provide simplicity or minimize moves. In conclusion she highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of the four scenarios from the perspective of the King George community and asked Trustees to revisit the scenarios and take a fresh look at the merits of the elements and to vote thoughtfully.

### Dufferin FI Review

#### 1. Elyse Johanis

Lori McNeil-Chong read a letter from Elyse Johanis, a parent of a student at Princess Elizabeth PS. Copies of the letter were circulated at the meeting. Ms. Johanis expressed her concern regarding the potential split of the FI program between Princess Elizabeth and Mono Amaranth schools out of concern for her daughter's social/emotional development and the impact this change will have on her education. As well, she raised concern about the impact this change will have on all of the FI children currently enrolled at PEPS, and the quality of the FI program if the split occurs. Ms. Johnanis asked the Board to consider developing two full JK-8 FI programs in Orangeville by adding one at MAPS and allowing the children who are currently enrolled at PEPS to remain there.

#### 2. Karyn Ristok

Karyn Ristok, a parent of two students at Princess Elizabeth PS addressed Trustees. Copies of the success criteria applied to the two scenarios that she presented were circulated at the meeting. The criteria used was the same as those used by the Committee that brought the FI program to Orangeville. Ms. Ristok suggested that neither solution is ideal and that more input is needed and further

consultation should continue in an effort to find a solution that is more generally acceptable to all parties. In light of the boundary review scheduled in 2012 she asked that consideration be given to delaying a decision until after completion of that review, as any decision made now is going to be temporary.

3. Sonia McDonald

Sonia McDonald, addressed the Trustees on behalf of a group of FI parents in Dufferin. A copy of her presentation was circulated at the meeting. She relayed some of the feedback received from the FI community including that they do not want to move the Brisbane students again; that the JK-8 program should be kept intact; that Trustees should listen to parents rather than make the decision for financial reasons; and, that their children's education should be considered. She urged Trustees to consider moving up the boundary review for Dufferin and to make a decision on this matter after the review is completed.

4. Joseph Danckert

Joseph Danckert, a parent of two students at Princess Elizabeth PS, addressed Trustees. Copies of his presentation were circulated at the meeting. Mr. Danckert expressed concerns regarding the future plans for FI in Dufferin as the plan calls for moving his son from PEPS to MAPS and then a third time following a boundary review, which he felt was unacceptable. He noted the staff report refuted the suggestion of a second FI program at MAPS because it would be unfair to parents who believe that the Board is growing a JK-8 program at MAPS only to relocate them in two years as part of an Accommodation/Boundary Review and likewise it would be unfair to ask regular track students to move from their school in the future because decisions were made about FI now without appropriate consideration of the community-wide impact. He then pointed out that similar reasoning had been used when he had delegated to the Board only fifteen months ago out of concern that the move from Brisbane to PEPS was not in the best interest of the students and that, in leaving an established program, it may be setting things up for years of uncertainty in the Dufferin FI Program.

5. Linda Logan and Hal Gillett

Linda Logan, a parent of three children attending Mono Amaranth PS and the Co-Chair of the School Council, addressed the Trustees. She outlined her concerns with the proposal from the Parents' Committee and the Public meeting that was held regarding the issue. Parents at MAPS had not been aware that two scenarios had been developed that resulted in the FI program being accommodated at MAPS therefore many parents had not participated who would have had they been aware. Ms. Logan also felt that presentation of the scenarios had been weighted towards the growth scenario and that those in attendance did not understand that they were to indicate a preferred scenario on the feedback sheet along with their comments as they would be used for presentation to the Board. In addition, there was concern that the 26 feedback sheets received were not representative of the views of the families of the 270 students

at MAPS and the 163 FI students at PEPS as it was too small a sampling. Ms. Logan further indicated that it would be more prudent to conduct a full boundary review rather than creating a temporary solution that might require an additional move for the students in two years. She noted that two previous boundary reviews resulting in MAPS having a declining enrolment and that the growth proposal unintentionally will make it difficult to sustain the English track with such a large boundary created for FI. In conclusion, Ms. Logan urged Trustees to reject the report until a full boundary review of all Dufferin schools be undertaken, in the best interest of all the students in Dufferin.

Hal Gillett, a parent of two boys at Mono Amaranth PS, addressed the Trustees. He echoed support for the concerns expressed by Linda Logan, and in particular for the lack of communication with MAPS parents. He felt efforts should be made to protect the quality of the English stream at MAPS and suggested that it was not appropriate to have parents suggest how to change catchment areas before a formal boundary review is undertaken. Because he felt the process had been flawed, he asked that the decision not be made until an appropriate process had been completed to address the capacity issues in order to find a solution that is in the best interest of all concerned.

6. Dave Caughwell

Dave Caughwell, a parent of two children at Mono Amaranth P.S. addressed Trustees. He acknowledged the difficult decision the Trustees face and that the decision made regarding the Dufferin Review would extend beyond Princess Elizabeth and Mono Amaranth Schools.

7. Aiden Jefferson-Pipe

Aiden Jefferson-Pipe, a grade 5/6 FI teacher at Princess Elizabeth School introduced a video presentation. Copies of the students' comments were circulated at the meeting. She explained the students had heard about the FI review at home and in the playground and wrote essays on the topic as part of a persuasive writing unit, following an in class discussion. The students were video taped reading their essays. Their opinions supported two JK-8 FI programs at Princess Elizabeth and at Mono Amaranth. They felt that by not splitting the program, a good French environment could be kept and older students could continue to be role models for younger students. A strong French community is a good base for the FI program and therefore to retain a strong JK-8 program would be the best option. In addition they spoke about the effects on the teachers and splitting parent volunteer time as children in one family could be attending two different schools. The students also indicated they had already moved once from Brisbane School.

7. Jill Bauer

Jill Bauer, a parent of students at Princess Elizabeth School, was unable to attend the meeting and provided a letter to Trustees that was read by Ms. Lori McNeil-Chong. Copies of the letter were circulated at the meeting. Ms. Bauer is in support of

two full French Immersion K-8 programs at Princess Elizabeth and Mono Amaranth Schools. Her supporting arguments include the fact that peer support would be available with two full programs which she feels is vital to the success of the FI program; the dynamics of a dual track school where there is a disproportionate number of lower grades would change; and, the number of moves the children would experience in their elementary years would be too many. Ms. Bauer also asked that, if two full French Immersion programs are not implemented that consideration be given to grandfathering younger siblings to allow them to attend school with their older siblings.

## **DUFFERIN FRENCH IMMERSION STAFF REPORT**

Dennis Cuomo, Manager of Planning, introduced and reviewed the report entitled "Dufferin French Immersion Staff Report," dated June 8, 2010. He explained that that Board staff had raised concerns about the ability of Princess Elizabeth PS to accommodate the growing FI program because as Grade 7 and 8 are added to the program and as it continues to grow, as many as 7 portables would be required at the school by 2014. In February, the Board struck a committee of Trustees, staff and parents of students in the Immersion French Program at PEPS. The group was to examine the organization options for the program in Orangeville with a view to accommodating the K-8 program at PEPS and another school starting in September 2010 and to bring forward a solution for consideration by Trustees before June 30, 2010. This report brings the staff concerns raised during deliberations.

The Committee developed two scenarios but did not reach consensus and the parents and staff each preferred a different option. Scenario 1 splits the program between PEPS (JK-3) and MAPS (grade 4-8) while Scenario 2 would grow a second program at MAPS starting with a JK-1 program. Scenario 2 would also call for changing the boundaries for FI students in Dufferin and assigning feeder schools to each of PEPS and MAPS. The report submitted by the parent group on June 1<sup>st</sup> recommended only one option – Scenario 2.

The staff analysis of the two scenarios including staff comments and concerns and the School projections for Scenario 1 (Appendix A) and Scenario 2 (Appendix B) were reviewed. Staff have determined that there are difficulties with the recommended Scenario 2 as it would jeopardize the Regular Track program at MAPS before a full boundary review with full consultation can be undertaken. Scenario 1, which splits the program, for an interim period, makes the best use of available space and provides the greatest flexibility for the Board when considering options during any future accommodation/boundary review in Dufferin/Orangeville.

Concern was also raised regarding the adoption of a scenario resulting from this process that does not follow Board policy for conducting boundary/accommodation review. The original intent of staff when they brought the issue to Trustees and established a committee was to find an interim solution until a review could be conducted and a long term solution identified.

It was clarified for Trustees that the cost of having a portable on a school site is approximately \$10,000/year if the portable is owned by the Board. It was noted that further investigation would be needed to determine how many portables could be housed at PEPS as the school site is now smaller due to the sale of part of the property to the Town, and the addition that has been built onto the school. Confirmation is also required that there is sufficient electrical service to support the portables.

It was also clarified that a boundary review would take approximately six months to complete while an accommodation review could take approximately two to four years.

### **Recommendation #1**

Trustee Borden moved that the Report entitled, "Dufferin French Immersion Staff Report," dated, June 8, 2010 be received for information.

The motion carried.

***It was noted that the Dufferin French Immersion Committee's Report was received by the Program Committee on June 1, 2010 and that the consideration of the recommendations contained therein were deferred until the Business Operations Committee meeting this evening in concert with the staff report. The recommendations are as follows:***

**2.**

- a) a second site for a French Immersion program in Dufferin County be located at Mono Amaranth PS (MAPS) beginning September 2011**
- b) the Immersion French program at MAPS, to begin September 2011, be a JK/K/Grade 1 program**
- c) the Immersion French program at MAPS be increased by a grade in September 2012, and then annually until it becomes a JK to Grade 8 program.**

***Trustee Borden requested separation of motions 2a), 2b) and 2c).***

### **Recommendation #2**

Trustee Borden moved that a second site for a French Immersion Program in Dufferin County be located at Mono Amaranth Public School.

Trustee Topping requested a recorded vote on the above motion, which was as follows:

**Yeah: Trustees Borden, Edwards and Schieck**

**Nay: Trustees Bailey, Busuttil, Gohn, Moziar , Topping and Waterston**

The motion was lost.

**Recommendation #3**

Trustee Borden moved that a task force of parents from Mono Amaranth Public School and Princess Elizabeth Public School, plus staff and Trustees be struck to consider a second site for French Immersion in Dufferin County and all other options, including an early boundary review, and report to Board by November 2010.

The urgency for relocating students from PEPS was raised along with the suggestion to possibly use one or two portables on the site to allow more time for a task force to gather information and provide for consultation with both school communities. The pressing need to conduct a boundary/accommodation review was also raised and it was clarified that staff could investigate updating the Long-term Accommodation Plan by having the Dufferin/Orangeville review take precedence and be undertaken first before updating the remainder of the long-term plan. A report could be provided at the June 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting along with information regarding the number of portables that could be located on the PEPS site.

Trustee Waterston moved that the Board defer Trustee Borden's motion until the Board meeting scheduled June 22, 2010.

The motion carried.

**NAMING OF NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN WESTMINSTER WOODS DEVELOPMENT AREA**

Ms. L. Benallick, Superintendent of Education, introduced and reviewed the report, "Naming of New Elementary School In Westminster Woods Development Area," dated 2010 06 02. In compliance with Policy 303, the Board struck a School Naming Committee. Membership included Trustees, parent representatives, the Principal and the Superintendent. The Committee consulted with students, parents and staff at each of the feeder schools and considered all suggestions.

**Recommendation #4**

Trustee Moziar moved

THAT:

1. the report entitled "Naming of New Elementary School in Westminster Woods Development Area," dated 2010 06 02 be received.
2. the new Westminster Woods school be named "Westminster Woods Public School."

The motion carried.

## **NAMING OF FACILITIES – GUELPH C.V.I.**

Ms. E. Kelly, Superintendent of Education, introduced and reviewed the report entitled “Naming of Facilities – Guelph C.V.I.,” dated 2010 06 08. The request to name four wings/sections of G.C.V.I. was brought forward jointly by the teaching staff and the Alumni Association and the Board struck a Naming Committee in keeping with Board Policy 303. The proposed names chosen are long-standing, well-known names in Guelph, are former students of G.C.V.I. and are highlighted on the G.C.V.I. Wall of Fame. The three wings are named after three Canadian World War I and II heroes, and the auditorium is named after a world renowned Guelph opera singer. Biographical Information for each was included in the report as Appendices A, B, C and D.

### **Recommendation #5**

Trustee Waterston moved

THAT:

1. the report entitled “Naming of Facilities – Guelph C.V.I.,” dated June 8, 2010 be received
2. the “old” building at Guelph C.V.I. be named the John McCrae Building (Appendix A);
3. the “Business/History/Moderns” wing at Guelph C.V.I. be named the Kenneth MacAlister Building (Appendix B);
4. the “Tech/Music” wing at Guelph C.V.I. be named the Charley Fox Building (Appendix C);
5. the “Auditorium” (in the old building) at Guelph C.V.I. be named the Edward Johnson Auditorium (Appendix D).

The motion carried.

## **FACILITY PARTNERSHIP REPORT – 2010**

Mr. D. Cuomo, Manager of Planning, introduced and reviewed the report entitled “Facility Partnership Report – 2010,” dated June 8, 2010. The report is in follow-up to the adoption of Policy 319 at the last Board meeting. The Ministry of Education requires Boards to identify space available in existing schools or co-building opportunities. It has been determined that the two schools identified as having space were Tytler PS and Grand Valley & District PS and the rationale as to why the space is not suitable for potential partnerships was reviewed. It was noted that the project to reconstruct King George PS is expected to take place during 2011/12 school year and that while the site presents limitations for multiple uses, it would be appropriate to advise potential partners who may be interested in co-building facilities in the new school. Under the Ministry Guidelines a public meeting is required to provide information about Facility Partnership opportunities. The June 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting can meet this requirement with a Facility Partnership item on the agenda. Notice of this Public meeting will be posted on the U.G.D.S.B. website and sent to our list of potential partners.

### **Recommendation #6**

Trustee Gohn moved

THAT:

1. the report PLN:10-12 entitled "Facility Partnership Report – 2010," dated June 8, 2010 be received and considered.
2. no existing schools be added to the Facility Partnership Space List for 2010;
3. the King George Replacement Project be added to the Facility Partnership Space List as a co-build opportunity for eligible partners.

The motion carried.

### **RESIGNATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS**

Ms. J. L. Rose reviewed her memo "Resignations and Retirements (Appendix A and B)", dated June 8, 2010, as circulated at the meeting.

### **Recommendation #7**

Trustee Schieck acknowledged the long service of the staff and moved that this Committee recommend to the Board

THAT:

- a) the report, "Resignations and Retirements" dated June 8, 2010 be received; and,
- b) the Board approve the Executive Officer of Human Resources' decisions as outlined in the report "Resignations and Retirements," dated June 8, 2010 (Appendix A and B).

The motion carried.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**

Ms. J. L. Rose, Executive Officer of Human Resources, provided a verbal report highlighting the Health and Safety activities for the past month. Mr. Jim Bowie, Occupational Health and Safety Officer has worked with Plant Operations staff to develop training programs and the schedule will commence this month. In addition, he has been working with a Technology Consultant to complete the Secondary Technology Safety Manual.

### **Recommendation #8**

Trustee Moziar moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the verbal report on Health and Safety, as presented by Ms. J.L. Rose, Executive Officer of Human Resources, be received as information.

The motion carried.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### Status of Motions Re: Central Guelph (FI) Accommodation Review

It was clarified that in keeping with Policy 305 that governs the ARC process, a motion of intent was passed at the last Board meeting. No less than 60 days is required before the Board confirms the motion which allows the public the opportunity to respond and to serve as a consultation period. As required, the Board will confirm the motion at the meeting scheduled August 31, 2010.

## **IN CAMERA**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Waterston moved that this Committee adjourn at 10:20 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.