
Accommodation Review

E.T. Carmichael Public School, E.W. Norman Public School,
W.J. Fricker Public School, Chippewa Secondary School,
West Ferris Secondary School, Widdifield Secondary School

1st PUBLIC ARC MEETING

Notes of Meeting

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

6:30 p.m.

Widdifield Secondary School

320 Ski Club Road, North Bay

Attendance:

All members of the ARC Committee were in attendance.

Approximately 80 members of the public were in attendance.

Summary of Discussions:

- Concern was expressed for the potential loss of a school in the West Ferris area, particularly since many businesses have moved away from this area of town.
- Speaker 8 spoke about a 2007 research study: *Review of Empirical Evidence about School Size Effects*, by Leithwood and Jantzi. Speaker 8 will forward the link to the study so that it can be shared with the ARC committee and posted to the Board website.
- Speaker 5 presented a poster summary of research from Queens University and Nipissing University on active transportation to school. Speaker 5 will forward the posters so that they can be shared with the ARC committee and posted to the Board website.
- Concern was expressed about potential traffic congestion for the Chippewa site, noting there are other schools in the area, daycare and other buildings.
- The cost to transport students who live in the West Ferris area to Chippewa was a concern given that these students are now able to walk to school.
- The student population size of the staff recommended option was a concern for many. Support was expressed for the consolidation from three high schools to two high schools, rather than one.
- Concern was expressed over a potential loss of sports opportunities and programs for students with special needs.

- Suggestions for the ARC Committee:
 - conduct a peer review of previous ARC experiences to glean any lessons learned.
 - consider adding a reduced carbon footprint as a principle for decision making.
 - further information be requested to capture the unique programs and characteristics of each school.
 - consider looking into more data and research in support of the alternative considerations outlined in the Initial Staff Report.
 - consider if there will be enough space at the new build to support facilities for science and trades programs.