
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

ARC WORKING MEETING #1

Notes of Meeting

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

6:30 p.m.

**E.W. Norman Public School
599 Lake Heights Road, North Bay**

Attendance:

Attendance was taken at the beginning of the meeting.

Summary of Discussions:

- The ARC committee expressed their overwhelming support to explore a 3-2 alternative to the staff recommended 3-1 secondary school option outlined in the Initial Staff Report (ISR).
- There was unanimous support for the elementary option recommended by staff as outlined in the ISR.
- Some members of the committee shared concern that there might be some misconceptions in the public about the role of the ARC. It was clarified that:
 - the ARC committee is advisory. The final decision rests with the Board of Trustees.
 - the ARC committee is not in any way responsible for promoting or endorsing the staff recommended options in the ISR. Rather, the ARC is responsible for reviewing materials, commenting on the staff recommended options and/or recommending alternative option(s) to those in the ISR.
 - the options presented in the ISR are not a fait accompli. The Ministry and Board policy mandate that Boards present a recommended option(s) at the beginning of the ARC process. Trustees hear best thinking from staff, then hear best thinking from the community and then make their final decision.
- It was noted that one ARC meeting per month was established to allow sufficient time for staff to resource and prepare for upcoming meetings. The committee will consider adding an additional working meeting following the April 19th working meeting should they feel it is needed.

- The ARC Committee has received several written questions and statements from the public for consideration. Should members of the ARC committee wish to have particular questions addressed, it was requested that they forward them to Carrie Girard.
- In response to several requests from the public to consider an additional public meeting, the ARC reached consensus on the date of April 18, 2017 at W.J. Fricker. Members of the public who have not presented, or past presenters with new information will be invited to speak. Speakers will be required to follow the same registration procedure as followed for the first public meeting. The committee is specifically hoping to hear ideas and proposals for 3-2 alternatives for the secondary schools.
- A member of the public raised a perceived conflict of interest for student representatives on the ARC committee. The committee determined that there is no conflict of interest due to:
 - the students do not stand to benefit from a particular decision. All three students will have graduated by the time any option comes to fruition.
 - the students were elected by their peers to represent student voice by serving on the Student Council at their school. Principals at each school approached Student Council who then determined which student would serve on the ARC. This same process was followed to select parent representatives from Parent Council.
- The ARC Committee will be provided with a template to assist members in developing 3-2 alternatives, and that staff will bring back information (based on any alternatives that are submitted) for the next meeting.
- Since the ARC committee will be considering 3-2 alternatives, the item of Transportation on the agenda was deferred until the next meeting.
- Staff will bring back information related to secondary school boundaries and how they are managed by the school board.
- It was noted that 3-2 alternative options should be viable for all remaining school communities, not just one and that there is no perfect solution.