

KEEWATIN-PATRICIA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Kenora Accommodation Review Advisory Committee

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MINUTES

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

Committee Meeting –Lakewood School Library

Present: Eleanor MacDonell, Cecile Marcino, Denise Forsyth, Lisa Gate-Villa, Dan Essery, Michelle Ott, Jennifer Parsons, Tara Rickaby, Yolanda Fobister, Dean Carrie, Sean Monteith, Tim Flynn, Dave Stepanik, Elaine Sinclair as Recording Secretary.

Absent with Regret: Grant Erickson, Tracey Wells

Others Present: Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Cecile Marcino, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the January 6, 2010 meeting was approved.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of November 16, 2009 Committee meeting were approved.

The minutes of November 30, 2009 Public Consultation Meeting at Keewatin School were approved.

The minutes of December 9, 2009 Public Consultation Meeting at Evergreen School were approved.

Additional Data Requests

Data request – capacity at Beaver Brae, enrolment projections at Beaver Brae, how many years to accommodate Grade 7 – 12.

Beaver Brae capacity is 1092, and 80% of this (874) is enough to generate full funding. Headcount this year is 880. Considering the projected enrolment, it would be the year 2013-14 before there would be capacity for a Grade 7 – 12 model at Beaver Brae.

Boundary Crossers Data

A discussion was held on boundary crossing, possible reasons and the process in place to apply.

a) Process

- forms need to be completed and submitted for approval.
- no transportation is provided for boundary crossers
- Principals consider space in classrooms before approving boundary crossers
- no caps on boundary crossers

b) Reasons:

- Daycare and before/after school program
- Programs in the school (e.g. King George recreation program, Lakewood – Fine Arts program)
- New start
- Siblings attend school already
- Split family scenarios

- Convenience for parents. Parents are on the go. If you have to come to Kenora for day care for a.m., then bring all your children to Kenora.
- Transportation not provided does not seem to be an issue

Some reasons could be controlled; daycare and before/after could be equalized across schools. Day care has to be for all ages.

Valleyview and King George Schools – destination schools

Should do a study on attending outside the catchment area to include questions such as:
Reasons why they want to boundary cross

Comments on Lakewood School when it was an intermediate school (changed to JK – 8 in 1998):

- Opportunity for shop and tech
- Sports teams because of volume of students same age.
- Enough students in one spot to do all the activities

It was felt that when the schools changed to a JK-8 model, the ability to attract outside students was not as great.

Due to changing times, students require more now in resources and equipment.

Pulling grades 7 – 8 out of elementary schools may affect some children that are marginalized students. Gr. 7 – 12 model in one school will have 12 year old to 21 year old students in the same school. While there would be some merit to having this model, it would have to be with extreme caution.

Projected enrolment – not a huge change coming in next 5 years. Keewatin and Lakewood schools will decline more than others. How do we want utilization for those two schools? Although next year will see a sizable change in Grade 8, the next big drop is projected in 2012-13. Where do we want drops to occur? Daycare and boundaries are easiest to change.

Review of Options and Scenarios

Options should be studied for two terms: the next 0-5 years and the following 5 – 10 year period. The Accommodation Review Advisory Committee's area of study is for the facilities utilization, whereas the programming planning would be more a Board issue. Lakewood School, because of the size of the building, would be the most costly to operate.

Thoughts to be considered would be:

- Size of schools wanted
- Physical condition
- Geographic locations
- Three point schools
- Rural schools
- Downtown schools
- Have to look at what is best for students
- Surveys

Survey/Questionnaire Development

Surveys were discussed and possible information that the committee would be looking at collecting from input through these surveys. Some questions could focus around the following:

- Thoughts on Grade JK – 6/Grades 7 – 12 model schools or K-8 schools
- Thoughts on large K – 8 schools or smaller schools

- Transportation – would it influence the choice of where the child attended school

Investigation into ways of obtaining input from Aboriginal people were discussed. Possible avenues to be considered would be an on-line survey and invitations to the Chiefs of the Dalles, Rat Portage and Washagamis Bay First Nations to participate in meetings.

Next Meeting Dates

Tuesday, January 19, 2010 – King George VI School

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 – Valleyview School

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.