

ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
PETAWAWA FAMILY OF SCHOOLS
MINUTES

October 2nd, 2008
At Pinecrest Public School

Presentation of May 2008 Staff Report

PRESENT: Supt. Roger Clarke, Committee Chair; Roy Reiche, Vice-Chair of the Board; Trustee Therese Hein; Bob Sweet, Mayor of Petawawa; Bryan Baird (Principal Rep); Sonya McLaren (General Panet H.S.); Anna Montgomery (General Lake P.S.); Jennifer Neville (Pine View P.S.); Don Stewart (Herman Street P.S.); Lynn Deschambault (Pinecrest P.S.)

ABSENT: Lt.-Col. Bill Moore, Base Commander
(With regret)

Mr. Clarke welcomed those present and reviewed the agenda for the evening. Mr. Clarke referred the audience to a PowerPoint presentation which summarized a staff report from the May 26, 2008 Committee's meeting. He introduced members of the Petawawa Accommodation Review Committee and distributed copies of the report to members of the audience.

The presentation included a rationale for conducting a pupil accommodation review at this time and the following reports were presented:

- Summary of Enrolment and Space Needs
- Graph of Ten-Year Enrolment Projections
- Summary of Historical Enrolments
- Summary of Staffing and Program Support
- Summary of Annual Operating Costs
- Summary of Projected Long-Term Facility Renewal Costs

Mr. Clarke concluded the presentation by explaining to the audience the process for submitting school and community input to the committee.

Question and Answer Portion of the Programme

Question: Did the Board take into account the Primary Class Caps into its projections?

Answer: (Mr. Clarke)

Yes! Primary Class Caps have put some pressure on our classroom space; however we have always had lower class sizes at the primary level. What we have noted is the increase in combined grades as a result of this initiative but the reality for the Petawawa community is that we have in excess of 755 student spaces at the present time in the family of schools.

Question: Has the Board taken into consideration the anticipated growth of personnel attached to CFB Petawawa?

Answer: (Mr. Clarke)

We contracted a company that specializes in forecasting trends. They access all the data provided by the planning departments of local municipalities and use current census data.

Question: Will students transfer to the new school from other schools and districts?

Answer: (Mr. Clarke)

Our mandate is to provide public education to our constituents. I suspect a 'new' school would be attractive but we would still need to follow our practices and policies regarding cross boundary transfers for students in our own district.

Question: How does Renfrew County's declining enrolment rate (3%) compare with other boards?

Answer: (Mr. Clarke)

The provincial average is about .5% and only a few districts around the GTA are experiencing an increase in enrolment. Off hand, I do not know the specifics of other boards in our region.

Question: How can the school valuation framework help schools such as Herman Street Public School and Pine View Public School? What can we hope to gain by doing a presentation?

Answer: (Mr. Clarke)

The Ministry and Board guidelines around pupil accommodation studies require us to conduct a review in a planning area; therefore we cannot exclude any schools. The value of being part of this process is that the committee and Board hear directly from each school community what they value about their school.