

ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

PETAWAWA FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

MINUTES

November 20th, 2008

At General Lake PS

PRESENTATIONS BY

Pine View P.S. and General Lake P.S.

PRESENT: Supt. Roger Clarke, Chair; Roy Reiche, Vice-Chair; Trustee Therese Hein
Lt.-Col Bill Moore, Base Commander; Bryan Baird (Principal Rep)
Sonya McLaren (General Panet H.S.); Anna Montgomery
(General Lake P.S.); Don Stewart (Herman Street P.S.);
Jennifer Neville (Pine View P.S.);

ABSENT: Lynn Deschambault (Pinecrest P.S.); Bob Sweet, Mayor of Petawawa
(with regret)

Mr. Clarke welcomed those present and reviewed the agenda for the evening. Members
of the committee were then introduced.

PINE VIEW PUBLIC SCHOOL

Presentation Committee:

Principal:	Keith Haycock
Teachers:	Shelley Wasmund/Nancy McIver
Parent Representative:	Kirsty O'Brien
Student Representatives:	Brittany O'Connor

Value to the Student

Quality of the learning environment at the school

- Environment of kindness and compassion where students can develop with support and encouragement
- Collaborative team effort working toward a shared vision
- Specialized FSL and ESL staff; MAC class;
- SSC is involved in promoting a positive school environment; supervises homework club; anti-bullying strategies
- Class sizes – promote effective learning

Student Outcomes at the school

- Named a Lighthouse or beacon school
- Parent/Guardian involvement is an integral part of programming
- Strong, motivating leadership which instills confidence
- Character development is a focus

Program Offerings

- FSL; Special Ed (MAC class); literacy

Range of co/extracurricular activities

- Although Pine View is a small school, it competes with other schools at the highest degree with courage and respect
- School teams R.C.E.I.A.A.
- Clubs- walking; chess
- Arts – choir; music; drama arts showcase
- Curriculum – science fair; public speaking; parent workshops (math) Character education workshops
- School Community & Community at Large – Terry Fox Run; MS Read-a-thon; recycling; Legion poster and literature contest; Remembrance Day ceremony

Adequacy of the school's physical space to support learning

- French room; literacy room; MAC classroom; kitchen; Math room; SERT room; specialized Kindergarten classroom with reading loft and student washroom; library/computer lab and custodial office

Adequacy of the school's grounds

- Large open space facilitates supervision of all students
- Large white pines around fenced perimeter of yard
- Paved area for 4 square and basketball
- Separate JK/SK yard

Accessibility of the school for students with disabilities

- Handicapped access at all entrances

Safety of the school including yard and bus safety

- Yard supervisors are easily visible with orange sashes
- Students request yard passes to re-enter school at recess
- Students understand safe play rules and there are few issues on the yard
- Separate bus entrance to school – parent pick up and drop off area
- Public Address system is wired to individual rooms and outside
- Visitors are required to sign in and wear a visitor's pass

Proximity of the school to students/length of bus ride

- Large zone to draw students
- 10 students are driven; 16 students walk; 214 students are bussed
- There are 27 out-of-zone students (board approved)

Proximity to community facilities and resources

- Community resources used to help develop student skills and awareness: Fire Dept; OPP; Royal Canadian Legion Branch 517
- Civic Centre and Silver Dart Arena
- Anderson Gymnasium
- Jubilee Lodge

Value to the Board

Student Outcomes at the school

- EQAO Four Year trends - Grade 3: Over half of the students are performing at a level 3 or higher in reading and writing; Every year for four years 70% of students achieved a level 3 in math
- EQAO Four Year trends – Grade 6: In reading, there has been an increase in the number of students reaching level 3. In writing, over half of students are reaching a level 3. Increase of 30% in number of students reaching level three over the past four years

Range of program or course offerings

- OFIP; MAC (Mixed Abilities Class)
- Nelson's Numeracy Secretariat filmed a grade 5/6 class in 2007. This is on the Webcast for Ontario educators
- Pine View Piloted 6+1 Traits for the Petawawa Family of Schools. This writing framework continues to be used

Condition and location of school

- Recent renovations include: visible and open office area; expanded custodial area; storage facilities
- Single level construction
- Ramps at entrances

Fiscal and Operational Factors

- Even though school zone is the largest in Petawawa, Pine View is still the smallest school based on population. Demographic is very spread out. Full capacity has been maintained for the past number of years. Minimal operating costs.

Human Resources:

- Principal; 15 teaching staff; 8 support staff
- High degree of parent involvement

- Active school council

Value to the Community

Facility for Community Use

- Boys and Girls Club runs their program each day
- Booster Club runs in the summer
- Piano lessons are taught each Tuesday

Programmes serving both school and community

- Each year, the school hosts a Fall Supper, which is attended by over half of the school. Guests are encouraged to donate to the food bank.
- Drop off site for the Snowsuit Fund
- Volunteers run a Book Fair annually

Involvement of Community in school and school staff in community

- Annual fun night in the spring is a big attraction
- Participation in Terry Fox Run
- Donation to Truckers' Toy Drive and Food Bank
- Members of the community read to students during literacy week
- Fund raising for play equipment
- Large green space that is used every day including weekends by the public

Value to the Local Economy

School as a local employer

- Pine View employs 24 made up of custodial, office and teaching staff

Availability of cooperative education and future employment opportunities

- For the last 15 years co op students have been placed in classrooms
- Student teachers are placed here. Many are from this area and come back to teach in this area.

Attracts or retains families in the community

- Broad spectrum of students, as one third are from military families, with the remaining from local and rural families
- Partnership with local business: school shirts for teams are made locally; sign at front of school was made locally

Positive Enhancements

- A separate computer lab with high speed internet
- A stage or cafeteria
- Larger kitchen facilities
- Arts/music specialist
- Day care facilities at the school
- A gazebo/picnic table in yard for shade

Questions and Answers:

- Mr. Baird: Looking at your demographics. Do we know what areas your 27 out of zone students are from?
- Mrs. O'Brien: I think some are from the Herman Street Zone
I would venture that some of the students are from the west end of Pembroke towards Petawawa
- Mr. Stewart: What levels are introduced to sign language?
- Ms. Wasmund: We introduce it to our primary and junior choirs.
- Mr. Reiche: How is Art and Music valued in your school?
- Mr. Haycock: Students begin in Kindergarten and they are singing all way through. They play in a band and will likely perform at graduation.
- Mr. Reiche: How do you feel students respond to art and music
- Brittany O'Connor: They get very excited about performing
- Ms. Wasmund: Students have been painting ceiling tiles to enhance the appearance of the school.
- Ms. Hein: How are the MAC students transported to Pine View?
They are integrated from home schools in the morning arriving by bus. They return to their home schools in the afternoon (1/3 of the day)
- Ms. McLaren: How will Pine View benefit from a new school being built
- Ms. Wasmund, Ms. McIver and Ms. O'Brien: Specialty classrooms such as science labs, stage and pool all would benefit Pine View.
- Ms. McIver: Everyone came together to help and put this report together. It goes to show the teamwork that exists at Pine View.
- Mr. Haycock: It was a wonderful team effort to put together the presentation.

GENERAL LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Presentation Committee:

Chairperson: Janine Friesen

Students: Allison Warren/Rachel Lockley

Teachers: Julie Faught/Carol Soucy

A Snapshot of General Lake

- 352 students
- 60% of students in French Immersion
- 102 students in Kindergarten
- 20 students in small class placement Special Education
- 25 students receive SERT support
- 35 students receive early literacy intervention
- 63 students in the Children Deployment Support Programme (18%) which represents 33% of all students in RCDSSB enrolled in the programme
- 42% of students are bussed (149)
- Transient nature of population 352 students: in the past year there have been 250 admissions and 170 departures

Value to Student

Quality of the learning environment

- With a transitory school population, identifying and planning for students is critical for future learning whether in British Columbia or Nova Scotia
- Teachers are adept at assessing the needs of students quickly and accessing the appropriate supports either within school community through such programs as Early Literacy or by contacting outside agencies including the CCAC, CHEO or the CNIB
- Smaller class size allows for focused instructional leadership across divisions
- Bilingual administrator
- Teacher collaboration and reflection occurs frequently
- Enthusiastic volunteer parents network

Student Outcomes

- High expectations for students
- Engaged students
- Respectful learning environment
- Character education: bulletin board, daily quotes and monthly assemblies to celebrate student success

Range of course or program offerings:

- French Immersion at General Lake Public School is an essential program that brings opportunity to our students, our community and our educational system (see Handout)
- Literacy
- Deployment Programme

Safety of the school

- Parents value the zero-tolerance bully programme

Adequacy of the school's physical space and school grounds

- Bilingual book room
- Bilingual library organized by staff/students and parents
- Full computer lab directly connected to the library to facilitate library time
- School on two levels with elevator for easy access
- Music resource room
- Large gymnasium with stage
- Large classrooms
- Multi sensory room
- Breakfast program facility
- Large organized school yard with two soccer pitches; two baseball diamonds; two basketball courts and two gazebo areas
- No portables
- Segregated playground areas

Proximity

- Wide range of community facilities nearby such as:
Petawawa Public Library; Civic Centre Recreational Facility; South Side Community Center; BAS Programme; Petawawa Family Health Center; and Heritage Village

Value to School Board

Range of programme or course offerings

- Early Literacy; Special Education classes; Deployment programme; Early French Immersion programme; CHEO support programme; Teacher for the Visually Impaired

Value in the Community

Involvement of community in school and school staff in community

- The PA puts on weekly Pizza lunches and will be holding a Festival of Trees event in early December
- The School Council hosted an evening with Maggie Mamen last year and organized a literacy event called "A Tip of the Hat to Reading" earlier this month and is planning to host another special speaker in the New Year

- Parents value a staff and culture that appreciates and understands the military lifestyle as families are posted around the country at any time of the school year
- General Lake shares a unique partnership with our military community. From school building projects to volunteer readers for Family Literacy Day, the school relies on CFB Petawawa General Lake is always looking for ways to reciprocate this support, such as offering specialized support and consideration to children whose parents are overseas, and sending letters and banners to our troops.

Value to the Local Economy

Availability of cooperative education and future employment possibilities

- Co op programme from General Panet
- ECE training (Algonquin College)
- Faculty of Education training (Nipissing and Ottawa U.)

Positive Enhancements/Considerations for the New School

Students' Point of View: lockers, cafeteria, more play equipment, age segregated areas, outdoor skating rink

Teachers' Point of View:

Academic Needs

quality and availability of resources, science lab, math manipulative room, life skills room, smart boards, auditorium for the arts, dance studio
minimum of 3 computers/classroom

Social and Emotional Needs

Must continue military support and community services; strong communication between school and military community; sensitivity to transient population and other needs of the community, S.S.C. and Deployment counsellors; bilingual administrator; bilingual support system; day care on site

Physical Environment Needs:

Change rooms with showers and lockers; on site nurse and health education resources, dance studio, pool, skating rink

Parents' Point of View:

More classroom desks and chalkboards; larger washrooms; larger reception area at the front desk; more counselling for troubled students; updated equipment for the JK/SK students; better parking with proper drop-off area for students

State of the art library; a librarian (partnership with library at Civic Centre); a cafeteria; an auditorium; lockers or some kind of adequate storage for students

French Immersion: late entry or extended French Immersion

A Green approach to the building of the new school. Suggestion that there be a “Green Committee” to oversee that the most environmentally sound techniques and materials to be used in any new construction

Questions and Answers:

Mr. Clarke: For a point of clarification, cross boundary transfers are permitted to allow students to enrol in a specific programme or in the case of day care needs of the student, before and after school.

Lt. Col. Moore: There is a high turnover of students. Is there a growing cohort of younger students?

Ms. Friesen: There are continuing large numbers of K students. What happens is that by the time they get to be in junior and intermediate grades, they move away.

Mr. Reiche: What is being done now and what would you like to see with respect to the transient situation?

Ms. Faught: We are sensitive to the students who need help.

Lt Col Moore: Crossing provincial boundaries is huge

Ms. Faught: We often request student records and wait a long period of time for them.

Ms. Lacelle: Early intervention programming is key. At an EQAO in-service when we looked into our data, we found that 90% of our students who were with us in Grade 3 for testing, were no longer with us for the Grade 6 provincial testing. We were testing a whole different cohort.

Ms Lacelle: Teachers will often keep extra copies of handouts to give to new students who keep arriving in their classrooms.

Mr. Reiche: This is an opportunity for us. I think that I would like to clarify a couple of issues. I noticed the importance of French Immersion to your parents. French Immersion is critical in Petawawa to serve the military families. I can see the board will look at ways to improve the delivery of French Immersion and not take anything away.

Ms. Lacelle: French Immersion also benefits French families because children learn to play in English.

Lt. Col Moore: Increasing numbers of students are Francophone. Do you have enough resources?

Mme Soucy: We currently have enough resources to meet our needs

Mr. Clarke: Next Thursday, we will be hearing from General Panet H.S., the only high school in the county with a French Immersion programme.

Mr. Clarke: There is no criterion for admission to early immersion unlike other late entry immersion programmes in the county

Ms. Hein: Would you benefit from having the early literacy and numeracy assistance extended to grade 6? You're starting from step one with all these new students

Ms. Soucy: A literacy programme would certainly help students in Grade 6

Mr. Clarke: Green school considerations. The responsibility of looking at this type of thing would fall on the transition team. There will be additional funding for environmental considerations. It is another envelope we can go after although at present we don't know what that dollar value will be.

Summary:

Ms. Soucy: I am pleased to hear that French Immersion will continue

Ms. Faught: This was a meaningful process to show us that General Lake is a unique school and it is good to hear it validated.

Mr. Clarke: The information will be collated and there will be one more meeting at Gen Panet High School. November 27th is the last day we will gather written information. We will then look at the overall picture and then move toward preparing a final report. Thank you for being part of this process at a very busy time.