

ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

PETAWAWA FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

MINUTES

November 27th, 2008

At General Panet H.S.

PRESENTATION BY

General Panet H.S.

PRESENT: Supt. Roger Clarke, Chair; Roy Reiche, Vice-Chair; Trustee Therese Hein; Bob Sweet, Mayor of Petawawa; 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.)

WITH REGRET: Lynn Deschambault (Pinecrest P.S.)

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

GENERAL PANET HIGH SCHOOL

Presentation Committee:

Teacher Rep: Jamie Davis
Parent Rep: Carol Ann Turcotte
Community Rep: Cy Steele
Student Reps: Katie Stewart and Erin Tennian

Value to the Student

Quality of the learning environment at the school

- Collegial and supportive staff
- Family atmosphere
- School Support Counsellor
- Student services/Guidance
- Visible Principal and VP

Student Outcomes

- Specialist High Skills Majors
- Diverse streams of classes
- Leadership opportunities
- Credit Recovery

Range of course offerings

- French Immersion
- High Performance Sports Programme
- Co-op opportunities
- Student Success
- OYAP
- Outdoor education

Co/extracurricular activities and extent of student participation

- Interact; GPAC; Student Council; Link Crew; Music Council; Yearbook; Grad Committee; Coaching development
- Access to late transportation

Sports Opportunities

- Cross country; volleyball; basketball; hockey; badminton; soccer; track & field; tennis; Thomas Sterling Memorial Game; Panther Classic

Opportunities in the Arts

- Concert band; Jazz band; Vocal Group; Sears Drama Festival; Spring Production; Art Wall of Fame; Clay Club

Adequacy of the school's physical space to support learning for all students

- Two gymnasiums and fitness room
- Computers
- Library
- Tech wing
- Science labs
- Music room
- No portables

Safety of the School

- Bus loading zone

Proximity

- Reasonable bus times

Proximity to Community Facilities and Resources

- CFB Petawawa
Co-op placements - Militia co-op/Base Hospital
- Access to Dundonald Hall, Silver Dart, Trails, Golf Course

- Civic Centre Access: soccer fields/softball fields
- Green space access
- Public library

Value to School Board

Student Outcomes

- One of 12 EQAO identified schools in the province for Literacy growth
- Not one *Bridges* student ever dropped out
- Very high graduation rate
- Proactive student success programme
- A professionally developed staff
- A leader in Student-Leadership Development – Link Crew
- Sports success – Dedicated teacher-coaches

Availability of specialized teaching spaces to support programming

- Communications Tech.
- All academic pathways
- HPSP (High Performance Sports Programme)
- Student-driven Website

Human Resources

- Professional learning community
- Strong parent-council
- Proactive administration
- A strong partner with the Town of Petawawa
- Access to Petawawa Post
- Relationship with Petawawa Legion

Value to the Community

Facility for Community Use

- Girl Guides; Boy Scouts; Military; OBA Basketball; “Play” space

Range of programme offerings that serve both students and community

- Nutrition programme

Involvement of community in school and school staff in community

- Interact
- Relay for life
- Remembrance Day service
- Terry Fox Run
- Community Discussions with Community Recreation and AECL
- Trivia Night
- General Panet Reunion

Staff run events /clubs

- Music
- OVFT Basketball
- Petawawa Ski Club
- Coureur de Bois Running Club
- Minor Hockey Coaches

Host Large Spectator Sports Events

- Panther Classic
- Boys/Girls Hockey Tournament
- Elementary School Sports events
- Cross-Country Meet

Grade 8 to 9 Transition

- Grade 8 visits
- August orientation
- Link Crew

Value to the Local Economy

School as a local employer

- Majority of staff reside in Petawawa
- Staff and families participate in community events

Availability of cooperative education and future employment

- Community H.S. provides potential employee pool and references
- Co-op placements
- Local H.S. an asset to AECL growth
- Pathway for local OYAP and skill development

Attracts or retains families in the community

- Young families aid with housing boom
- Community H.S. a benefit to CFB Petawawa growth

Benefits to Local Community

- Local businesses benefit from such events as: Panther Classic, High school sports and General Panet Reunion
- Petawawa – Officially one of top places to live in Canada

Positive Enhancements

“Imagination to Vision to Mission to Plan to Persistence to Success”

Needs of the General Facility:

- Full-size double gymnasium
- Foyer
- Large, full-service cafeteria
- Permanent-Seat Auditorium

- Large Main-Office space
- An Ecological base
- Proper staff room
- Wireless and up to date technology
- Library update

Physical Education and Athletics Dept. Needs

- Full-size double gymnasium
- On-site soccer and baseball fields
- Track
- Large, properly equipped fitness room
- Large, multi-purpose health/training room

Classroom Needs:

- Subject specific areas of the school
- Classroom for the co-op department
- Climate control
- Appropriate storage space within classrooms
- Updated technology
- Proper defined spaces in all labs
- Power distribution

Communications technology:

- Photography requirements
- Video production requirements

Science:

- Each classroom should be a full service lab
- Chemical preparation and storage area
- School greenhouse
- Separate teacher preparation/conference area

Art/Music:

- Enough space for all equipment
- Built in specific facilities

Foods:

- Separate classroom and kitchen
- Specific equipment

Transportation/Manufacturing/Construction:

- Separate classroom as quiet teaching area
- Proper ventilation and air quality (i.e. safety first)
- Access points and work areas (i.e. garage doors and workspace for large equipment)

Office Staff Needs:

- Appropriate defined spaces for individual offices
- Enough room in offices (to accommodate case conferences)
- Climate controlled environment
- Appropriate storage space within office
- Technology up-to-date

The committee emphasized that General Panet is critical to both CFB Petawawa and the Town of Petawawa. Each member of the committee reinforced this notion. Mr. Davis stated that for many years, General Panet has benefited from use of facilities belonging to CFB Petawawa. A new school would offer an opportunity for the school to become a true partner with both CFB Petawawa and the Town of Petawawa.

General Panet H.S. Projections

The committee presented some numbers that they would like to have considered in the discussions:

C.F.B. Petawawa: 700 – 800 soldiers will be posted to CFB Petawawa in next 3 years.
Town of Petawawa: 400+ new homes under construction as of August 2008
Petawawa Students Educated in Pembroke: Students who live in the Township of Petawawa but attend school in Pembroke Total – 467
Students who live in the Township of Petawa but are transported to Pembroke to attend Jeanne Lajoie & Equinox: Total – 320

Numbers vs. Petawawa Family of Schools Pupil Review 1517 vs 1347 for a difference of 168 or 11.2%

General Panet H.S. projections – Based solely on current Petawawa Family of Schools enrolment moving forward to following year - Projected 482 ARC 241 50% discrepancy

Questions and Answers:

Mr. Reiche: I notice that there is a significant interest in sports at General Panet – hence the special programme. I also notice that on the wish list there is a ‘permanent seat auditorium’. What sort of vision do you have for the arts?

Mr. Davis: We are an extremely diverse population with two distinct populations – civilian and military. Culturally diverse groups or pods of interest groups i.e. music, drama or sports are growing in enthusiasm with the interest of staff. We are growing in all kinds of ways (as you can see from the display in the gym this evening). It would help to foster the dependency role. It would be an asset for the whole community.

Lt. Col Moore: There is a very high turnover of students at General Lake P.S. with concerns over inter-provincial transfers and ease of transition for students. Do you experience the same turnover here at General Panet? What do you do to meet the needs of these students?

Mr. Davis: I've seen students come and go but the nice thing about this school is the friendliness. There is continuous movement of people in and out of the school. There are always people from the military in the school. Most staff live in the community and there is a lot of ownership for the students at the school.

Ms. Rantz: We don't have the turnover. 20 – 25% of the students either leave or enrol. Seventy percent of the students are military. There are 379 children from Petawawa who attend Bishop Smith in Pembroke. We will continue to look after the military children.

Mr. Baird: I can appreciate the numbers. The potential for growth is there. The number would include children in Grade 7 at Our Lady of Sorrows.

Mr. Sweet: The numbers seem to be strange. 400+ does not include houses or subdivisions that may be approved.

Mr. Gaffney: 479+ indicates the potential for much more growth – growth of CFB Petawawa and growth and expansion at AECL. These needs should be considered.

Mr. Davis: Deb (Rantz) is the community rep on the AECL committee

Ms. Rantz: Three hundred and eighty-three (383) employees of AECL live in Petawawa with their families.

Mr. Clarke: This question is directed to our two students who gave an excellent presentation. How do you see it as a benefit to attend the same school as elementary age students? Consider a K-12 concept.

Erin: We would be important role models. But there could be a downside to being with the younger kids.

Katie: It would make the transition to Grade 9 a lot easier because they would be familiar with the school.

Lt. Col Moore: How many students are in the French Immersion programme?

Ms. Rantz: It is still growing. Currently we have one class per grade. I know we could get more students if we had a facility in the town, rather than having the students go to Pembroke.

Mr. Stewart: Could you please expand on the High Performance Sport and Shop Programmes.

Mr. Davis: With respect to the HPS programme, we are tremendously fortunate to have access to the facilities at Dundonald Hall. These students have an opportunity to improve their fitness skills. Hockey players and dancers, among others, focus on fitness rather than sports specific skills.

Students cross-train during phys ed classes to their specific sport. Specially trained teachers can design very specific programmes.

It is a multi-faceted facility that we could only dream of. Healthy active living, nutrition and safety are also studied.

Mr. Davis: With respect to the shops – teachers envision a variety of interesting subjects such as: robotics and photography. The auto and small engine shops focus on hands-on skills such as changing tires etc.

Ms. McLaren: Is General Panet the only high school with a Link Crew?

Katie: We are training other adults in other schools.

Ms. McLaren: How did the Grade 9's like it?

Erin: They liked it a lot. You see the transition of them becoming more comfortable here by the end of day one.

Mr. Zadow (VP) We are one of three schools who use this concept of orientation and transition. The others are Opeongo H.S. and Renfrew C.I. The philosophy of the programme is based on the theory that you will not see the benefits until three or four years down the line. We are very proud of the programme. We felt that this programme would be another layer of support for our deployment initiatives at the school.

Mr. Davis: The concept has blossomed into something that had already existed at the school. Teachers are often in the feeder schools. First year students feel that "I'm being included already – the senior students are really helpful".

Mr. Clarke: Carol gave an impassioned plea for special programmes in Petawawa. What sort of aspects do you see would meet these needs?

Ms. Turcotte: In a K to 12 building, the transition would be much easier and would cause less anxiety. Cooking, shopping and home economics would make hands-on learning in a full-kitchen as authentic learning.

Mr. Clarke: Do we currently have a home economics programme?

Mrs. Rantz: We currently have hospitality and foods courses. We only have home economics at the senior level.

Ms. Rantz: It speaks to the staff that so many of them are here this evening.

Mr. Clarke: This is the fourth public meeting. This concludes the stage of input. We will need to get some more information re: transportation and enrolment figures. Thank you to the public and thank you to General Panet for this tremendous display of our students' K to 12 journey in the public education system.

