



# MINUTES

## Sir James Dunn Public School Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) Final Public Meeting



Location: Sir James Dunn Public School - Library  
Date: Monday, May 1, 2017  
Time: 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

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**Attendance:** 23 including the ARC

### Welcome & Introduction of ARC

- Principal Petar Kusic welcomed and introduced the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) and reviewed the agenda for the evening.

#### **ARC Members**

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|-----------------|--|
| Joe Maurice     | Superintendent of Education/Human Resources (ADSB) |
| Petar Kusic     | Principal (SJD)                                    |
| Robin Maj       | Chair of School Council (SJD)                      |
| Mayor Ron Rody  | Municipal Representative (Wawa)                    |
| Patty Bernath   | Staff Member (SJD)                                 |
| Amanda Gauthier | Community Member (Wawa)                            |

### Questions & Feedback from March 1, 2017 ARC Meeting:

- In summary from the last meeting:
  - It was reiterated that both buildings, SJD and MHS, are safe and in good condition. The Ministry is more likely to provide funding to renovate an existing building that is large enough to accommodate a student population rather than add onto a smaller building when a larger building is available. In a renovation project, the classrooms are larger and there is more room for storage than would be available in a new construction build.
  - The Board is still interested in joining with a community partner and looking at a partnership with a daycare.
  - The MHS site has the room that can accommodate the students of both buildings and an increase in enrolment. There is also a large gym and several technology shops. These facilities would be difficult and expensive to recreate at the SJD site.
- Public questions and comments included:
  - (1) How much has the Board done to bring new students and families to SJD? There have been rumors for years about this move. There is some concern about the possibility of losing this school. The school is part of the community and some do not want to lose this facility.
  - (2) What is the budget for keeping both buildings?

- Response: We do not have that at this time. However, due to the low capacity of both buildings, it is difficult to get funding to keep both buildings up and running.
- (3) Can't we wait until we know there will be funding?
- Response: The board needs to complete the ARC and get a recommendation from the Trustees before the Ministry can be approached.
- (4) What does it look like going forward if the ARC recommends to move SJD staff and students? How does everyone get their voice and suggestions heard, will there be opportunity for student voice?
- Response: The move will not happen this September, it will take at least a year or two to happen. Everyone will have an opportunity to put forth ideas and ideas will be recorded and shared with senior administration and senior administration will be present in discussions moving forward.
- (5) What is the plan for a possible future boom in population?
- Response: MHS still has considerable space for growth and would be able to accommodate quite a large population
- (6) Will the board invest the monies saved from closing SJD be put into staffing and future programming that will be attractive to partners and the community? Much of the programming has been lost from SJD over the years.
- Response: Capital funding is separate from program and staffing funding. However, the school and the board will continue to develop programming that appeals to the students. The board wants to grow the building and the enrollment.
- (7) An audience member commented that she wants the school to have money to work with to improve programming. Another audience member brought it forward that it was Ministry driven that the music program was removed from the school. The decision was not made at the board level but rather the Ministry level.

### **Review of Input / Activities since March 1, 2017 ARC Meeting:**

- Central Algoma Elementary Tour – see Slide Show
- Greenwood Public School – see Slide Show
- Chapleau Elementary and Secondary School: Patty Bernath provided an oral report on how well staff and students are now working together now, compared to when they first moved together into a JK-12 site – with some of the initial challenges when the move was first made three years ago. None of the original concerns – such as the number of bathrooms and contact between the secondary and elementary students has emerged – they are not a problem. The school has several bathrooms and the school is now a community that is working well together.
- Discussion with SJD Staff: The SJD staff met together with some members of the ARC to identify concerns and possible solutions/suggestions if the school moves to a JK-12 site. Some of the concerns that were identified included safety of MHS including sharing space with older students and community partner (College), entry access to the school with respect to safety, the number of exit doors in the MHS building, washrooms and sharing of washrooms with the secondary and elementary students, outdoor space, playground equipment, basketball courts, soccer fields, fencing due to the busy roads in the area, gym schedules, extracurricular activities, library (want to maintain library for elementary), ensure busing is safe, room allotment, size of classrooms, and storage. In addition, staff wanted to ensure that construction was complete before students made

the move to the JK-12 site. Several suggestions were also shared including – keep the messaging consistent and positive – celebrate what we have in place and programming that is in place. Other suggestions included to consider flex seating, making the school as “green” as possible, looking at expanding programming for science, technology, dance, etc., include a calming room or sensory room, include a partnership with a daycare, re-starting café – lunch and breakfast programs, re-vamp the entry way to the school to celebrate the community in some manner (natural elements), and include updates throughout the building – replacing ceiling tiles, etc.

- Discussion with MHS Staff: The MHS staff also met with some members of the ARC to identify some concerns and suggestions. If the recommendation is made to put the two schools together the staff would like to be involved in the process, would like to get talking and working together. They shared the need to promote the school moving forward and focus on the positives. They would like opportunities to meet and discuss programming. In addition, a priority for MHS staff was to ensure classrooms had windows and natural light throughout the building and good air quality. They also indicated that they did not want to work in a construction zone and would like input into the process.

### **Review of Committee Recommendation:**

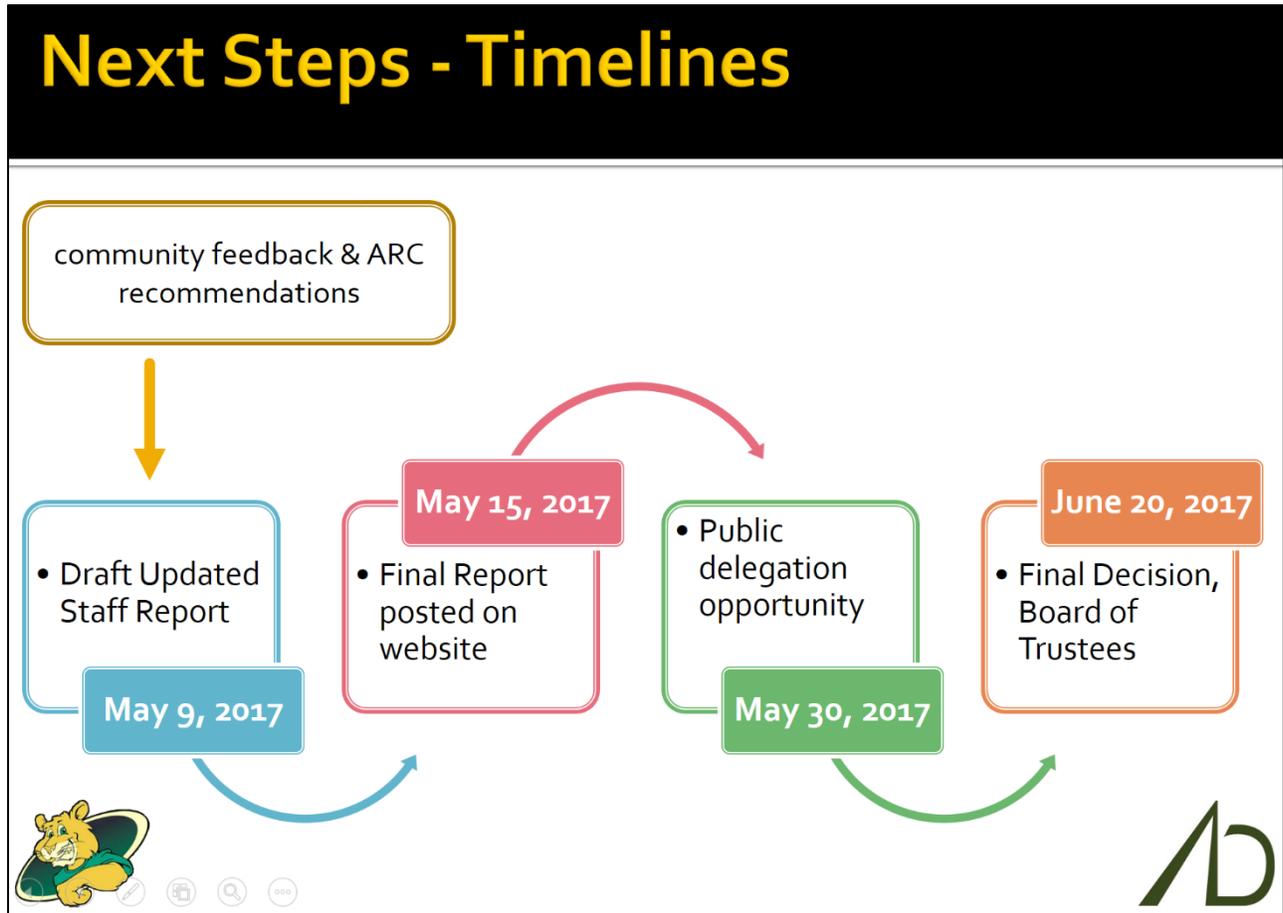
- The ARC shared that it is leaning towards a recommendation of relocating the elementary program, students and staff currently housed at the Sir James Dunn site, to a JK-12 facility on the Michipicoten High School site

### **Questions/Feedback/Input Regarding the Recommendation:**

- Continue to work with our First Nation partners (MFN) and provide a space within the JK-12 facility as needed – culture room/classroom & work area for support worker.
- Gather all the partners at the table at the discussion level in the next stages of the process.
- Put out a positive message in the media – focusing on messaging with the public that the school is not closing in 2 years – it is “relocating”. The community is talking about the school being closed in two years.
- Publish a timeline when available.
- Keep SJD students at SJD until construction is complete.
- Relocate at the beginning of a school year as it will be an easier transition for all, rather than midway through a school year.
- Save the “good” stuff to relocate to the MHS site.

## Next Steps – ARC Process & Timelines:

- Superintendent Joe Maurice shared a slide providing a summary of timelines for next steps in the ARC process.



## Questions Regarding Next Steps / ARC Timelines:

- On May 15<sup>th</sup>, include information for the May 30, 2017 ADSB meeting regarding public delegations.
- Think about the future of the SJD building.

## Adjournment:

- Closing and thank you by Principal Petar Kusic.