



MINUTES

Sir James Dunn Public School Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) Public Meeting #1



Location: Sir James Dunn Public School - Library
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2017
Time: 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Attendance: 33 including the ARC and ADSB Representatives

Welcome & Introduction of ARC

- Principal Petar Kusic welcomed and introduced the Accommodation Review Committee and representatives from ADSB

ARC Members

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)

ADSB Representatives

Joe Santa Maria	Superintendent of Business (ADSB)
David Steele	Manager, Plant Department (ADSB)
Andrew Drinkwater	Capital Analyst, Plant Department (ADSB)

Background Information & ARC Process

- Petar Kusic, Superintendent Joe Santa Maria and Superintendent Joe Maurice reviewed information from the slide presentation. The last public meeting will be scheduled for May 1, 2017. Trustees will make a decision by the end of this school year.

School Information Profile

- Principal Petar Kusic reviewed past and projected enrolment from the slide. Enrolment has trended in the decline over the past 6 years and the projected numbers for 2017. This year the school is using 37% of the building capacity rating (Total On the Ground Capacity for the school is 343 and currently the school has 131 students).
- Superintendent Joe Maurice reviewed the possible benefits of JK-12 schools, including availability of support staff, SERT coordination, easier transitions, additional opportunities for students at both levels, and opportunities for staff at the elementary and secondary level to work more closely together.

- Superintendent Joe Santa Maria shared that there has been very positive feedback from other sites on the JK-12 models throughout the school board. The JK-12 model helps to support student transitions as well. There is much research to support the JK-12 model in education.
- Superintendent Joe Maurice shared that although the space is shared there are separations as well. Many schools run separate lunch hours etc.

Initial Staff Report & Recommendation

- Superintendent Joe Santa Maria explained the thinking behind the option of relocating students from Sir James Dunn PS to Michipicoten High School. The reason why MHS was considered is that it has the square footage available to house all students at both the elementary and secondary levels in one building. The high school is approximately three times the size of the elementary building. The Ministry of Education strongly encourages School Boards to use existing buildings as options rather than approve and fund building new infrastructure onto a building. A JK-12 school at the Sir James Dunn site would require the construction of specialized spaces such as a large gym, shop classrooms and other specialized classes. The cost of adding onto the elementary building would be greater than renovating the existing space at Michipicoten High School. The school board submits proposals outlining capital priorities for the board. Through experience in past proposals the board has learned that the government encourages school boards to submit proposals that focus on an upgrade to an existing building rather than submitting plans for new construction.

Public Input, Feedback & Questions

- (1) If the Ministry of Education accepts a proposal is there a timeline that must be followed?
 - Likely will not get a response from the Ministry of Education prior to the fall, then there will be a selection of an architect, then tender prior to building.
- (2) Where can we find further details on the numbers and was there a third party review on the numbers provided?
 - The School Profile provides a summary of the numbers and the Board has specific details. The Ministry of Education utilizes consultants to assess the useful life of each component and the numbers are determined based on when replacement should take place. Plant Manager Dave Steele explained that following assessment of the building by the government the school board reviews the recommendations. The school board verifies the numbers that the Ministry of Education provides to the board. A geographic adjustment factor is used to determine the value of each item. The service life is not indexed.
- (3) Have any of the suggested costs listed in the chart been addressed since 2013? Would this affect the FCI of the school now?
 - Page 6 of the School Profile lists some of the improvements that have been completed in the school since 2013. The listed FCI is current.
- (4) Does the FCI of the building take into account things that can not been seen by the visible eye? Between the two schools which one is safer?
 - The FCI numbers has components for environmental factors (asbestos, mold etc.).

- Both schools are very safe. If there is a problem determined through construction it would be addressed through a maintenance stand point and process. For example, if there are visible signs of mold – they are addressed and corrected.

(5) What would it cost for MHS to come over to Sir James Dunn?

- It would cost more to have MHS move to Sir James Dunn due to the fact that it would require new construction of various items – gym, shops etc.

(6) Is there any conversation of looking at having one education system in the province of Ontario? Did we miss the boat on the idea of looking at French Immersion? In small towns such as ours we have 4 different elementary options that parents must decide between – is there any way to bring these models together?

- There is discussion about looking at the 4 board model at the Ministry of Education Level. From a school board stand point it is very difficult and very political to look a different model of education. It is not within the power of the school board to change. The Education Act and the Constitution outline the reasons why we have a 4 system model.
- When we look at the idea of French Immersion programs the concern is being able to have qualified individuals in place to be able to teach the program. This can be reviewed again in the future.

(7) Our children have gone through the public system and our grandchildren are now going to the French system and we are losing them. How can we make changes to bring people back to the public system?

- Robyn Maj suggested that it may be possible that this proposed change will be a factor that helps to bring back some of our enrollment with the creation of a new and exciting education opportunity.
- Superintendent Joe Santa Maria shared that the ARC and ADSB will listen very carefully to feedback from the community moving forward in this process to help create an environment that will meet the education needs of the community moving forward.

(8) Is the option of keeping Sir James Dunn completely off the table?

- There can be a number of recommendations from this process. The committee will make recommendations that will be brought to the school board and the Trustees. All of these recommendations will be reviewed and discussed prior to a final decision.

(9) How is funding determined? Can funding be moved from one school board to another?

- Funding is determined based on enrollment. Funds are not moved from one school board or another.

(10) Will the committee be making a recommendation after this meeting?

- There will be at least one more public meeting and possibly more prior to any recommendations from the ARC. In addition, there will be other opportunities to provide feedback and input to members of the ARC.

(11) Can you please expand the idea of having a daycare in a one building model?

- The school board would love to be able to have daycare move into the school. Throughout our system we currently have approximately 12 schools with licensed not for profit daycares in buildings. Daycares within the school building do not have the same capital costs compared those housed outside of school buildings.
- The ADSB does not get to determine what day cares enter our buildings. This decision is made by the District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB). The ADSB is willing to provide the space and has been in conversations for several years, however the final decision is made by the DSSAB.

(12) If a pool is an option, could the school board work together with the Lady Dunn Health Centre to work together to share the costs of having a pool in the community?

- Mayor Ron Rody discussed that there are ways to access funding to have the two entities work together. The community is actively looking at ways to bring in additional supports to the community to support the senior population.
- Superintendent Joe Santa Maria shared that many schools in Southern Ontario have had to close schools due to the fact that they are very costly to run. Ministry has asked various school boards to close pools due to the cost. If there is a way to partnership, the school board would be interested in looking at using a pool that may be built in town. In Elliot Lake, there is a pool adjacent to the school and it is accessed frequently by ADSB students. Any future proposal would have to take into account and defend the sustainability of the project.

(13) Has there been any loss of jobs when moving to the JK-12 model in other communities?

- There has not been a loss of teaching or EA positions due to moving to the JK-12 model. Other support staff also moved together into the new building.

(14) Sitting here now, it seems that the move is already made? Will the funds be used to improve the high school so that we do not have to have this conversation again in 15 years as the MHS building is older than SJD?

- Funding would be used to make upgrades to MHS as well as redesigning the building to be able to house the elementary students. Even though MHS is older with the rebuild after the fires, most of the building is newer than the original build date and the building is in good condition. It would cost more to update and expand Sir James Dunn with the necessary secondary facilities than to remodel MHS to house the elementary program.

(15) What is the value of the SJD building?

- That number was not available – an explanation as to calculation was provided by Joe Santa Maria.

- (16) What has not gone so well in past moves to the JK-12 model and what have you learned?
- From the building perspective we have learned from each experience. The school board has improved in being able to meet building deadlines, how to create engaging learning spaces, and provide increased access to technology.
 - The board has learned from the previous transitions. It is important to build relationships with our community families and communicate the plans to transition students clearly.
 - The board has learned that it is important to listen to all individuals involved moving through the process - parents, teachers, support staff, etc. It is important to capture what is important from a various points of views.
- (17) Why is the idea of having two floors for a JK-12 not desirable? Hornepayne is two story model.
- It easier to divide a school on a single level. The school boards can create wings or sections. It is easier to design separation so that different divisions are not competing for space.
- (18) Is there a set amount of money that has been determined to facilitate a move from SJD to MHS? What will the money be used for? If SJD is sold where does that money go?
- Determining where the money will be spent is a process as well. The voices of all parties need to be heard prior to any decisions being made. The school board will also take into account capital planning. If the school board does not receive a specific amount to complete a project, then the school board will look at how to use capital funds to meet the needs. Any funds generated from selling a building goes back into capital planning. The Ministry of Education is aware of the capital plan for the ADSB and they will be a part of the funding moving forward in the process. Funding is accessible for improvement projects such as the one under discussion.
- (19) When you have consolidated other schools, do you take advantage to providing upgrades to the building as a whole?
- Upgrades would be made throughout the building as needed, rather than just in remodeled elementary sections.
- (20) What are the options available with respect to construction and having the students in the building?
- The board has learned much from previous projects. It is important not to rush things and to look at a variety of options available to support construction and ensure the safety of students and staff through the process.
- (21) Is future growth in student population in Wawa a part of the process in the discussion of planning a JK-12 school?
- The capacity of the building is at the high four hundred range so there is room for growth. If the school grows beyond that, the need would be brought forward to the Ministry of Education at that time. At one time MHS housed over 600 students.

(22) Is any of the costing of upgrading the needs at MHS done at this time?

- Looking at the upgrading needs would be the next step in the process should it be determined that moving the elementary students down to the MHS site would be the best decision moving forward.

Additional Comments

- The original plans for MHS had a pool.
- We need to communicate faith and confidence to the community. We need to educate the community on what the process is for the future of the school.
- We need to communicate this as a positive move for the community – the creation of a real community hub.
- This meeting was well advertised but we do not have a high turnout of parents and parent involvement. Moving forward we need to encourage parents with concerns to become more involved in the school and school council.
- The Board is interested in building partnerships moving forward and would welcome conversations with community partners (health, child care, post-secondary education).
- We need to be very aware of access to special education needs moving forward.
- Thank you to the staff and administration of SJD for working to get Native Language in the elementary school and working in partnership with Michipicoten First Nation.

Next Steps

- Please feel free to forward any questions that may arise to Petar's email (kusicp@adsb.on.ca) or any other member of the ARC.
- The ARC will continue to meet and collect feedback prior to the next public meeting.

Adjournment

Thank you from Joe Santa Maria, Joe Maurice and Petar Kusic. Thank you for the welcome into your school and community. We appreciate the questions and open minded questions and expressions of concerns as we move forward. Thank you to the media for your assistance in getting the message out to our community.