



Pupil Accommodation Review Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference were developed in accordance with the Ministry's 2009 revised *Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines*.

1.0 Mandate of the Accommodation Review Committee

- 1.1 With school valuation as its focus and the Board's strategy for supporting student achievement, the Accommodation Review Committee is to lead the public review and act in an advisory role that will study, report and provide recommendations on accommodation option(s) with respect to the group of schools or school being reviewed for the Board of Trustees' consideration and decision.
- 1.2 A separate Accommodation Review Committee shall be established for each group of schools being studied.
- 1.3 This Accommodation Review Committee is charged with the review of the following schools:
 - **Bell-Stone (JK-6)**
 - **Mount Hope (JK-8)**

2.0 Membership of the Accommodation Review Committee

- 2.1 The Accommodation Review Committee should consist of the following persons:
 - The Accommodation Review Committee Chair as appointed by Executive Council;
 - Two (2) parent representatives who are members of School Council and/or Home and School Association from each school under review;
 - One (1) parent representative who is not a member of School Council or Home and School Association from each school under review;
 - If only one school is being reviewed then the representatives may be increased to two (2);
 - One (1) teaching representative from each school under review;
 - One (1) non-teaching staff from each school under review;

- 2.2 The Accommodation Review Committee membership will be deemed to be properly constituted whether or not all of the listed members are able to participate.
- 2.2.1 Written invitation to participate on the Accommodation Review Committee will be issued with a deadline date for acceptance. No response by that date will be considered as non-acceptance.
- 2.3 Accommodation Review Committee membership may be adjusted so that the Committee may function effectively.
- 2.4 All members of the Accommodation Review Committee are voting members with the exception of the Accommodation Review Committee Chair and feeder school representative who are non-voting members.
- 2.4.1 When a vote is called only the voting members present will cast their vote via ballot. A vote shall be passed when fifty percent (50%) plus one of the Accommodation Review Committee members vote in favour of the motion. Should there be a tie vote the motion/recommendation is defeated.
- 2.4.2 Quorum shall be defined as fifty percent (50%) plus one of the Accommodation Review Committee members.
- 2.5 Recognizing the value of the Accommodation Review Committee's contribution to the Board's ability to provide quality educational opportunities for its students, Accommodation Review Committee members must be prepared to make a commitment to attend all, or nearly all of the working meetings and public meetings
- 2.6 In the event that an Accommodation Review Committee member is unable to commit to attending all, or nearly all of the meetings, the Accommodation Review Committee Chair has the authority to address the attendance issue and recommend a solution.
- 2.7 The Accommodation Review Committee will have resource support available to provide information when requested or to provide expertise not already within the Accommodation Review Committee. The following people are available resources:
- The Trustee(s) of each school(s) under review;
 - The Trustee(s) of associated schools;
 - The Superintendent(s) of Student Achievement for each school(s) under review;
 - The Principal from each school under review
 - Administrative support for minute taking;
 - Dedicated resources to enable the Accommodation Review Committee to understand the issues that exist and to provide:
 - support to ensure compliance with the Board's policy and procedure;
 - information relevant to the mandate of the Accommodation Review Committee as requested by the Accommodation Review Committee;
 - information relevant to the mandate of the Accommodation Review Committee to support community questions or requests;
- 2.7.1 If the Accommodation Review Committee Chair sees a need for additional expertise or if additional expertise is requested by the Accommodation Review Committee, guest Accommodation Review Committee resources may be invited to attend specified meetings

(i.e. students, HWDSB staff, members of the community or local economy) as approved by the ARC members.

3.0 Operation of the Accommodation Review Committee

3.1 Executive Council will be responsible for appointing the Chair of the Accommodation Review Committee.

The Accommodation Review Committee Chair is responsible for:

- Convening and chairing Accommodation Review Committee meetings;
- Managing the development of the process according to the Accommodation Review Committee mandate, the *Terms of Reference* and the supporting School Information Profile (SIP);
- Coordination of the activities of the Accommodation Review Committee, requesting support, resources, and information relevant to the Accommodation Review Committee's mandate from the HWDSB staff;
- Ensuring completion of the *Accommodation Review Committee Accommodation Report*.

3.2 A SIP for each affected school necessary to permit the Accommodation Review Committee to carry out its mandate will be provided at or prior to the Accommodation Review Committee's first working meeting.

3.3 For each affected school the SIP will include the following and will be made available to the public via a posting on the Board's website and in print format at the Education Centre upon request:

- The section of the Board's most recent Long-Term Facilities Master Plan that deals with the municipality or area under review;
- Relevant background information regarding the schools located within the area of the accommodation review.

3.4 The Accommodation Review Committee will meet as often as required to review and analyze all pertinent data and prepare for the mandatory public meetings.

3.5 The Accommodation Review Committee shall determine a schedule of the dates, times and location of meetings. This should be established at the first meeting of the Accommodation Review Committee subject to Section 6.1 of this Policy.

3.6 Working meetings of the Accommodation Review Committee may be held regardless of all voting members being present.

3.7 The Accommodation Review Committee will complete its work within the timelines outlined in this Policy.

3.8 In the event that a member is unable to fulfill his/her duties on the Accommodation Review Committee, the Principal of the affiliated school(s) working with the Chair of the Accommodation Review Committee, may co-opt another representative. If a replacement cannot be found, the Accommodation Review Committee will continue to function.

3.9 The Accommodation Review Committee will provide information to the affected school communities on an ongoing basis.

- 3.10 Board staff will respond to reasonable requests for additional information that has been approved by the Accommodation Review Committee and will include the response(s) to the question(s), in the Accommodation Review Committee's working binder under the appropriate section, and will post the responses on the Board's website.
- 3.11 Requests for information in keeping with the Accommodation Review Committee's mandate and in keeping with the schools under review, will be provided by Accommodation Review Committee Resource staff in a timely manner for the Accommodation Review Committee's use and if the information is requested from an external party, for the Accommodation Review Committee's approval. It may not always be possible to obtain responses to requests for information in time for the next scheduled meeting. If this occurs, Accommodation Review Committee Resource staff will provide an estimated availability time.
- 3.12 All Accommodation Review Committee meetings will be structured to encourage an open and informed exchange of views.
- 3.13 The Accommodation Review Committee may create alternative accommodation option(s), consistent with the objectives and Reference Criteria outlined above.
- 3.14 Where the Accommodation Review Committee recommends accommodation option(s) that include new capital investment, the Accommodation Review Committee Chair will advise the Accommodation Review Committee on the availability of funding. Where no funding exists, the Accommodation Review Committee, will propose how students would be accommodated if funding does not become available. Accommodation Review Committee Resource staff will provide analysis support for this process.
- 3.15 All accommodation options developed by the Board or by the Accommodation Review Committee are to address, at a minimum, where students would be accommodated; changes that may be required to existing facilities; program availability and transportation.

4.0 Reference Criteria

- 4.1 The key criteria that will be used by the Accommodation Review Committee to fulfill its mandate include, but are not limited to, the following:
- a) **Facility Utilization:** Facility Utilization is defined as enrolment as a percentage of "on-the-ground" capacity. The goal is to maximize the use of Board owned facilities over the long-term.
 - b) **Permanent and Non-permanent Accommodation:** Permanent accommodation refers to "bricks and mortar" while non-permanent construction includes structures such as portables and port-a-paks. The goal is to minimize the use of non- permanent accommodation as a long-term strategy while recognizing that it may be a good short- term solution.
 - c) **Program Offerings:** The Accommodation Review Committee must consider program offerings, each with their own specific requirements, at each location.
 - d) **Quality Teaching and Learning Environments:** The Accommodation Review Committee should consider the program environments and how well they are conducive to learning.
 - e) **Transportation:** The Accommodation Review Committee should consider the Board's existing Transportation Policy and how it may be impacted by or limit proposed accommodation recommendations.
 - f) **Partnerships Opportunities:** As a requirement of the Policy and Ministry guidelines, the Accommodation Review Committee should also consider opportunities for partnerships.

- g) **Equity:** The Accommodation Review Committee should consider the Board's Equity Policy, specifically as it relates to accessibility, both in terms of the physical school access as well as transportation and program environments.

4.2 The Accommodation Review Committee may add additional reference criteria.

5.0 Working Meetings

- 5.1 The goal of the working meetings is to ensure that information is prepared for presentation at each of the minimum four (4) public meetings. The materials prepared will support the objectives and the Reference Criteria of this Terms of Reference and will help the Accommodation Review Committee in its development of the Accommodation Review Committee Accommodation Report.
- 5.2 The Accommodation Review Committee Resource staff will work with the Accommodation Review Committee to prepare all working meeting and Public Meeting agendas and materials. Meeting agendas and materials are to be made available by e-mail to the Accommodation Review Committee members and posted on the Board's website when possible at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.
- 5.3 Accommodation Review Committee Resource staff will ensure that accurate minutes are recorded. These minutes are to reflect the discussions that take place and decisions that are made at working meetings and at Public Meetings. Accommodation Review Committee meeting minutes will be posted to the Board's website after the minutes have been approved by the Accommodation Review Committee.
- 5.4 All information provided to the Accommodation Review Committee is to be posted on the board's website and made available in hard copy if requested.
- 5.5 Working Meetings of the Accommodation Review Committee shall be open to observation by the public.

6.0 Public Meetings

- 6.1 In addition to Accommodation Review Committee working meetings, the Accommodation Review Committee will hold a minimum of four (4) public meetings. Public meetings will occur in one of the affected schools, provided the school is an accessible facility, or at an alternate facility within the local community. These meetings will be organized as follows:
- At the first public meeting, the Accommodation Review Committee will present the Preliminary School Accommodation Review Report prepared by the Director of Education, including the Board/Staff proposed alternative accommodation option(s). As well, the Accommodation Review Committee will describe the Terms of Reference, including its mandate; outline its study process; give the public a briefing on the data and issues to be addressed and receive community input;
 - At the second public meeting, the Accommodation Review Committee will present a completed SIP (refer to Appendix D) for the school(s) under consideration and receive community input;
 - At the third public meeting, the Accommodation Review Committee will present the accommodation option(s) and request community input;
 - At the fourth public meeting, the Accommodation Review Committee will present to the public, the draft Accommodation Review Committee Accommodation Report with its interim accommodation recommendation(s) and receive community input. The Accommodation Review Committee may make changes to the report based upon feedback at this meeting.

- 6.2 The Accommodation Review Committee Chair will call the first public meeting no earlier than thirty (30) calendar days after the date of its appointment.
- 6.3 Notice of the first public meeting will be provided no less than thirty (30) calendar days in advance of the meeting.
- 6.4 Notice of the public meetings will be provided through school newsletters, letters to the school community, the Board's website and advertisements in local community newspapers, and will include the date, time, location, purpose, contact name and email address.

7.0 Accommodation Review Committee Accommodation Report

- 7.1 The Accommodation Review Committee Accommodation Report, which is a mandatory outcome of the Accommodation Review Committee's work, is to be submitted to the Director of Education, by the Chair of the Accommodation Review Committee. The *Accommodation Review Committee Accommodation Report* is to be drafted in plain language.
- 7.1.1 The Accommodation Review Committee will prepare a report that will make accommodation recommendation(s) consistent with the objectives and *Reference Criteria* outlined in the Terms of Reference.
- 7.1.2 The Accommodation Review Committee should also consider the following issues and try to address these as well as possible in the *Accommodation Review Committee Accommodation Report*:
- The implications for the program for students both in the school under consideration for consolidation, closure or program relocation and in the school(s) where programs may be affected.
 - The effects of consolidation, closure or program relocation on the following:
 - The attendance area defined for the school(s)
 - The need and extent of transportation
 - The financial effects of consolidating or not consolidating the school, including any capital implications.
 - Savings expected to be achieved as a result of the consolidation, closure or program relocation:
 - School operations (heating, lighting, cleaning, routine maintenance)
 - Expenditures to address school renewal issues which will no longer be required
 - Revenue implications as a result of the consolidation, closure or program relocation.
 - Additional expenditures, if any, at schools which will accommodate students displaced as a result of a consolidation, closure or program relocation decision taken by the Board:
 - School operations (heating, lighting, cleaning, routine maintenance)
 - School administration
 - School renewal
 - Transportation
- 7.1.3 The Chair of the Accommodation Review Committee will deliver the *Accommodation Report* to the Director of Education not earlier than ninety (90) calendar days and not later than one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days after the beginning of the

Accommodation Review Committee's first public meeting. The Director of Education will post the *Accommodation Review Committee Accommodation Report* on the Board's website.

7.1.4 The Accommodation Review Committee shall present the *Accommodation Review Committee Accommodation Report* to the Board of Trustees.

7.2 In the event that, in preparing its *Accommodation Report*, the Accommodation Review Committee cannot agree on recommendations regarding the future of the school(s) being considered, then the *Accommodation Report* with no recommendations shall be delivered to the Director of Education and shall be posted to the HWDSB website. The report shall include a statement indicating that the Accommodation Review Committee members were unable to agree upon recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

8.0 Capital Planning Objectives and Partnership Opportunities

8.1 The Board is to outline its capital planning objectives for the area under review in order to provide the Accommodation Review Committee with context for the accommodation review processes and decisions.

- The Board is to provide five-year enrolment projections, by grade, for each school included in the review. In addition, if requested by the Accommodation Review Committee, longer-term enrolment projections and/or school-age population data for the subject review area will be provided in order to support effective decision-making by the Accommodation Review Committee.
- These capital planning objectives should take into account opportunities for partnerships with other school boards and appropriate public organizations that are financially sustainable, safe for students, and protect the core values and objectives of the school board.
- The Board is to inform the Accommodation Review Committee of such known or reasonably anticipated partnership opportunities, or lack thereof, at the beginning of the Accommodation Review Committee process.

9.0 Alternative Accommodation Option(s) by the Board

9.1 The Board must present at least one alternative accommodation option at the beginning of the accommodation review process that addresses the objectives and the *Reference Criteria* outlined in the Terms of Reference.

9.2 Where the Board's proposed alternative accommodation option(s) include new capital investment, the Board staff will advise the Accommodation Review Committee on the availability of funding. Where no funding exists, Board staff will propose how students would be accommodated if funding does not become available.

9.3 Accommodation Review Committee resource staff will provide the necessary data to enable the Accommodation Review Committee to examine the options proposed. This analysis is necessary to assist the Accommodation Review Committee in finalizing the Accommodation Review Committee Accommodation Report to the Director of Education.