

South Accommodation Review Committee Meeting

Education Centre Board Room

April 5, 2011

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Chair -Scott Sincerbox

Voting Members - Bill Barrett, Kim General, Derek Hambly, Anne Pollard, Susan Pretula, Julia Shen, John Whitwell

Non-Voting Members - Wanda Bielak, Donna Clappison, Gary Deveau, Angela Ferguson, Manny Figueiredo, Randy Gallant, Mag Gardner, Brian Greig, Wes Hicks, Peter Joshua, Deb Jukes, Ted Kocznur, Joanna Maul, John Miholics, Laura Peddle, Kevin Robinson, Paul Vukosa

Regrets

Voting Members - Beverly Bressette, Jackie Brown, Alexandra Butty, Donna Dixon, Margaret Eagle, Al Pierce

Non-Voting Members - Scott Duvall, Tom Jackson, Lillian Orban, Terry Whitehead

Resource Staff

Daniel Del Bianco, Steve Stirling, Jim Wibberley

Recording Secretary

Tracy McKillop

1. Call to Order 7:07 p.m.

Superintendent Scott Sincerbox welcomed everyone to the fourth working group meeting. He shared with the Committee that the Program Strategy was not on the Agenda due to time constraints.

Susan Pretula indicated that she was struggling with the quorum issue and felt uncomfortable with not having quorum. The Chair shared with the Committee the Terms of Reference – page 3 – which stipulates the “Role of Members” to be:

- ***In accordance with Board’s Pupil Accommodation Review Policy, the ARC is expected to work toward consensus on recommendations and the overall Direction of the report to the Board.***

- ***The role of voting members is to provide direction in cases where consensus cannot be achieved.***
- ***Non-voting members bring expertise to the table and provide their opinions on issues and recommendations.***
- ***Board staff (other than those included in the membership) acts as a resource to the ARC. Staff from various departments will be in attendance at meetings to present data, strategies, and other information and to respond to inquiries. These staff do not have a role in approving the ARC's recommendations or providing opinions.***

Mr. Jim Wibberley stated that the Terms of Reference for this Committee is a two part decision-making process. The first stage is to seek consensus of the Committee and if consensus is reached then a vote is not required. Only when you have a dissenting voice does the Committee need to move to a vote using the voting members. This is stage two of the decision making process. When you do not have quorum then no vote can take place and no decision could be made unless it is by consensus. Susan Pretula stated that she does not feel comfortable approving anything and if the Committee can not move to approve the Agenda then what happens to the meeting. Mr. Wibberley stated that this was a tough spot for the Chair at which time Ms. Pretula asked if Mr. Wimberley's role was to act as the Parliamentarian. Mr. Wibberley stated that was not his role.

Gary Deveau raised the question of why the Principal was sitting at the voting table and he was informed that due to some members resigning from the South ARC Committee there was extra seating available within the horseshoe. Mr. Wibberley stated that the entire Committee is part of the consensus even when they are seated outside of the circle.

The Chair raised the question if the Committee would consider exchanging the next Public Meeting with Working Group Meeting #5. He then went on to ask if the Committee would move to approve the Agenda. Susan Pretula stated that in light of Director Malloy's presence this evening and due to not having a full Committee could the Committee go back and reflect of this evening's message.

The next question that raised was "can the Committee look at **#3 Planning for the next Public Meeting**" prior to entertaining 2.2 "Approval of the Agenda."

The Chair asked if the Committee could look at a modified Agenda to include only #3 – it was open to comments:

- Kevin Robinson asked if the **2.1 "Additions/Deletions"** was finished. He then asked if they could put the modified agenda under 2.1 on the Agenda. **Consensus was given to move #3 to 2.1.**
- Mr. Del Bianco shared with the group that they have nothing to present at the next public meeting so he raised the question of changing the date of the next public meeting to a future date.
- There was much discussion around this point. Some of the concerns and comments were:
 - That this would be an opportunity for the Community to give further feedback and a time to lay a stronger foundation.
 - At some point we need to work on our own options. We would be more productive to have something to present.
 - The public meeting needs to be productive and have guidelines because it creates a challenge without having guidelines.

- Some felt that they wanted more working group meetings prior to another public meeting.
- Trustee Laura Peddle felt that it would not be wise to back out of a public meeting that has already been advertised.
- Some were concerned about not being prepared to answer questions from the public at this time.
- Mr. Del Bianco and Mr. Wibberley would be available for support when needed.

The Chair again mentioned about the switching of the two dates at which point Trustee Laura Peddle wanted to know who wanted to move the date of the meeting. Mr. Del Bianco stated that as Resource Staff it is their obligation to make the Committee aware of the challenges that could arise. The Resource Staff have suggested moving the date to insure that the Committee is prepared for the next public meeting. Trustee Peddle stated that the voting members have said that they want to hear the public.

Kevin Robinson stated that in the interest of saving time he will be voting to change the date and since Susan Pretula will be voting to keep the date the same then no consensus would be reached. Since there was no quorum the date would remain the same. The Committee agreed with this and the Public Meeting date remained the same.

The Chair then asked the Committee for suggestions on planning the meeting and he felt that it was important to communicate to the Public that the Committee is not prepared however they would be open to hearing the public.

The comments and concerns were:

- How to get as many Mountain parents present as possible.
- Making Child Care and Transportation available.
- Have a brief overview again identifying the intention of the meeting.
- Have it well advertised.
- Who would make the presentation and who would be the spokesperson?
- Should the Board option be included again?

Consensus was reached to have one of the resource staff do the brief overview presentation and to share the Board option stipulating that this is a starting point only. The Committee felt that it was important to make the public aware that this is a starting point only and that they would like the public to give them feedback on how to move forward with better options. It was decided that softening the language would be advantageous in supporting this happening.

The Committee felt that it was important to have Peter Joshua on hand to answer any question that may arise around the Program Strategy. The Committee would be hearing the information for the first time as well as the public.

Susan Pretula raised the issue of Child Care and Transportation again. Mr. Wibberley stated that he would take the request back to the Steering Committee. Anne Pollard wanted to know how the Committee would know what the final decision was. Mr. Wibberley indicated that the Committee would receive an email.

The last point to be decided was who would be the spokesperson to represent the Committee. Some Committee members felt that no “one” person should be representing the Committee. It was further discussed that the Chair and the Resource Staff should act only as resource and not run the meeting. After further dialogue it was decided that Superintendent Sincerbox would Co-Chair with John Miholics. Questions would be answered by John Miholics, Kevin Robinson and anyone who was not sitting at the table tonight but would like to rejoin on that evening.

The Chair gave an overview of the items that the Committee had decided. They were as follows:

- Meeting to be held on April 26, 2011
- Process overview presented
- The Board option shared with a clear rationale
- An evening of dialogue with the bulk of the evening being discussion
- John Miholics and Superintendent Sincerbox will Co-Chair
- John Miholics and Kevin Robinson will answer questions – along with any Committee members who decide to rejoin the group.
- Child care and transportation to be decided.

There was consensus to accept the above listed items.

John Miholics read a statement at this point in the evening. He stated:

- **“I am not dissenting from adjournment. I have listened to a lot of people over the last few weeks. I have my opinions about the issues that have come up, but after listening I would like the opportunity to present my opinions and the opinions of parents and colleagues to the committee. So regardless of the issues, which I don’t diminish and wish some of them were resolved, at our next working meeting I would like the Committee to give me the opportunity to start working on our recommendations.”**

Meeting adjourned.