

South Accommodation Review Committee Meeting

Education Centre Board Room

March 8, 2011

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Chair - Scott Sincerbox

Voting Members - Bill Barrett, Beverly Bressette, Jackie Brown, Alexandra Butty, Margaret Eagle, Kim General, Derek Hambly, Angela Koklis, Al Pierce, Anne Pollard, Susan Pretula, Julia Shen, Teresa Robson

Non-Voting Members - Lisa Anderson, Wanda Bielak, Donna Clappison, Gary Deveau, Manny Figueiredo, Randy Gallant, Mag Gardner, Brian Greig, Wes Hicks, Peter Joshua, Deb Jukes, Ted Kocznr, Joanna Maul, John Miholics, Lillian Orban, Laura Peddle, Kevin Robinson.

Regrets

Voting Members - Donna Dixon, John Whitwell

Non-Voting Members - Scott Duvall, Angela Ferguson, Tom Jackson, Paul Vukosa, Terry Whitehead

Resource Staff

Daniel Del Bianco, Steve Stirling, Jim Wibberley

Recording Secretary

Tracy McKillop

1. Call to Order

Superintendent Scott Sincerbox welcomed everyone to the third working group meeting. He indicated that they had a busy agenda ahead and that they were now almost 30 per cent of the way through the meetings.

Superintendent Sincerbox stated that they had spent a great deal of time listening during the initial three meetings. However, tonight the Committee would begin the task of developing their own recommendations to the Board of Trustees. He stated that it will not be a quick task but its developments of these recommendations are the core purpose of the ARC.

He spoke of the follow-up information from the previous meetings that had been included in the handouts and reminded the Committee that microphones were available for their use so that everyone could be clearly heard.

2. Agenda

2.1 Additions and Deletions – There were no additions or deletions.

2.2 Approval or the Agenda – The agenda was approved by consensus.

3. Minutes of the meeting of January 25, 2011

3.1 Errors or Omissions - Trustee Laura Peddle made some corrections to the Minutes including requesting that the pages be numbered going forward.

3.2 Approval of the Minutes – The minutes were approved as amended. Consensus was reached.

3.3 Business Arising from the Minutes - The Chair shared that there were a number of questions that came from each of the smaller groups and the Committee as a whole. These were compiled and the answers have been provided to the Committee members. Mr. Daniel Del Bianco then commenced with reviewing the information and answering any questions that arose.

3.3.1 SIP Follow-up – Responses to issues/questions raised:

- Some of the Committee members felt that they did not have enough time to review the information so they were not sure if they had any questions. Mr. Del Bianco said that the information was sent out on Friday, however, we can work toward getting that out earlier in the future.
- Page 1 #3 – Why is 21 being used as a divisor at Mountain to determine the utilization rate – it was asked if there was other language from the Ministry to deal with special needs. Mr. Del Bianco stated that if it is a teaching room then the ministry loads it at 21. It was then questioned that if other HWDSB classes have special needs why we cannot compare apples to apples. Mr. Del Bianco shared that the on-the-ground capacity of classrooms and resource rooms are calculated the same way. These are Ministry records and they recognize the on-the-ground capacity. The next question asked if we are talking about bricks and mortar or are we talking about the students because we are moving students not bricks and mortar.
- #4 How were the projections calculated for Mountain Students? – There was concern over this calculation. Mr. Del Bianco stated that it is always difficult to create projections for any vocational school. The projection for Mountain was created by taking the school's historical percentage of the Board's overall secondary enrolment and applying that same percentage to the Board's projected enrolments. This way the projected enrolment trends at Mountain

would be consistent with what the Board is experiencing overall at the secondary panel.

- Section 11 #1 – What criteria did you use to identify whether or not the school was located on a municipal bus route? The Committee member wanted to know if the answer was noted as “yes” if the school was on the same street as the bus route. Mr. Del Bianco indicated that is correct.
- **Anne Pollard** indicated that she went on a tour of Mountain School. She asked Mr. Del Bianco if he could give the Committee an explanation of the class sizes, what funding the Board receives to make them what they are, what are their needs e.g. technology, social and E.A. needs. She wanted to know when the Board would provide the information to the Committee regarding the special education student’s needs. Mr. Del Bianco stated that they are all legitimate questions and it is important for the Committee to receive all of the answers. He shared that he was open to explore what the group would like to know and there are answers that may not be on this page. This is just a launching point.
- **Susan Pretula** asked Mr. Del Bianco if he could explain when loading a classroom if there is a different number for the special needs students if the typical is 21. Mr. Del Bianco stated that the Ministry of Education loads all teaching classrooms at 21 students per classroom and that this loading decreases for special education and core resource rooms.
- **Joanna Maul** stated that the Ministry has definitions for different classrooms so is Mountain Secondary being treated the same way as every other classroom? Is it considered different since it is a vocational school? Mr. Del Bianco stated that the Ministry dictates one thing – the classroom of 800 sq. ft. is considered or loaded at 21 students. They look at bricks and mortar.
- **Superintendent Peter Joshua** shared that Mountain Secondary classes are loaded for workplace and locally-developed courses.
- **Angela Koklis** stated that no schools that have a pool are being closed and that didn’t seem fair. She then asked that if the pools are Hamilton property how can they be referenced as Board-owned on the School Information Profiles (SIPs). She wanted to know if the Board used this in favour of keeping a school open and was it a deciding factor. Mr. Del Bianco indicated that it should not be part of the decision-making process. He said that the Board did not use that as a deciding factor.
- **Trustee Laura Peddle** feels that Angela Koklis is saying that the SIPs are wrong. Would it not be wise to correct the profile so the Committee has the correct information? If the pool is not Board-owned, can we not fix that? Mr. Del Bianco stated that “yes” we can.

3.3.2 School Tour Information – There were no changes to the school tours.

3.3.3. Clarifications – Barton/New School – Superintendent Sincerbox wanted to share some clarification about the recommendations from senior administration relating to Barton Secondary. He stated “in addition to Saltfleet and Westmount, we know we need three schools on the Mountain and students will be distributed amongst those three schools. If we receive Trustee and Ministry approval, and if a new school is constructed, students will move as a collective unit to the new school located in Ward 6. Again, the ARC may choose

to come up with its own recommendations moving forward, which may or may not include this scenario.”

Program Plan – The Chair shared that at the last working group meeting the ARC heard a presentation on the Board’s Program Strategy. However, due to time constraints the Committee may not have been able to ask questions. Superintendent Joshua was available to answer the following questions:

Jackie Brown wanted to know if the program strategies were in place. Does the Board have a specific plan for specific programs right now? She feels that it would help to make decisions if they knew what the program strategies will be. Superintendent Joshua stated that there are existing programs running now. The actual plan will be presented to the Committee in April. Ms. Brown wanted to know if they would be very specific, for example, where the Sherwood hockey program would be going. Superintendent Corcoran shared that the presentation will be very specific with those types of things. She indicated that the Board is aware of how positive the Wilson Reading Program is. Some of the program strategies are already in place and they are currently building some of them now.

Gary Deveau asked if you are planning on moving specific programs to specific locations what will be your plan with staff who are currently teaching those programs. He went on to ask if the recommendations will include where programs will be in place with the specialized staff and what accommodations need to be in place. Mr. Deveau wanted to know if the Board has been in contact with OSSTF. Superintendent Sincerbox has been meeting with OSSTF as well as other groups to accommodate this.

Margaret Eagle stated that when she received the enrolment data she was not able to see the students listed who are going to different schools to take these specialized programs. She asked who was taking them and are they willing to move to another location to take these programs? Superintendent Joshua stated that the Board currently has some data however this needs to be explored further. Ms. Eagle wanted to know when that information will be brought forward and she was informed by Superintendent Joshua that the first piece will be shared in April.

Jackie Brown inquired that when the ARC comes up with their own recommendation will the Board be looking to change these plans? Superintendent Joshua indicated that the options are open to changes based on the information coming forward from various groups as well as from the ARC. The recommendations are a point-in-time recommendation. Mr. Del Bianco shared with the Committee that they are more than welcome to state in their own recommendation where they would like to see these programs housed.

Trustee Laura Peddle asked Superintendent Sincerbox to read the statement again regarding 3.3.3. Barton/New School. He read “in addition to Saltfleet and Westmount, we know we need three schools on the Mountain and students will be distributed amongst those three schools. If we receive Trustee and Ministry approval, and if a new school is constructed, students will move as a collective unit to the new school located in Ward 6. Again, the ARC may choose to come up with its own recommendations moving forward, which may or may not include this scenario.”

At this point the Chair requested consensus to move off of item number 3.3.3 and consensus was given.

4. Minutes of the Public Meeting of February 15, 2011

4.1 Errors or Omissions - Some minor changes were submitted by Trustee Peddle

4.2 Approval of the Minutes – The minutes were approved as amended.

4.3 Business Arising from the Minutes

4.3.1. Debriefing from the Public Meeting

Jackie Brown indicated that she was very disappointed that one hour and 20 minutes was taken up with presentations and feels that at the next public meeting the focus should be on the public.

Angela Koklis raised the question of a new school in Ward 6 and shared that the newspaper indicated that there would be a new school in Ward 6 if the Board's recommendation is accepted. The Chair stated that this would happen if funding was approved by the Ministry. Mr. Del Bianco shared that the ARC does not have the same restrictions and they can make the recommendation to have a new school built anywhere that they would like to have one built. Ms. Koklis asked "are you definitely going to give the new school to Ward 6?" Mr. Del Bianco stated that as it stands it is located in Ward 6. It will be at the discretion of the Board of Trustees. It needs Trustee approval. Ms. Koklis asked if the Board decides to have it in another location will the Board be upfront and let the Committee know. Mr. Del Bianco stated "absolutely."

Gary Deveau stated that the strip through the centre of the city from the Bay up to the Linc will be without schools. "Has the Board looked at that?" Mr. Del Bianco stated that the Board is currently waiting to see what is happening. Mr. Deveau wanted to know how the Board could miss something like that. Mr. Del Bianco asked the Committee to wait until they have had an opportunity to look at the geographic overview and where the growth is located. This is not something that was done intentionally.

Beverly Bressette asked how they can say that when not all the schools have boundaries. Mr. Del Bianco stated that he did not know if he could answer that. He stated that the administration's options are the administration's option and he felt that the Committee needed to shift away from the Board option and work on their recommendation. Mr. Del Bianco asked the Committee to not get too caught up with the Board's option. He stated "let's do something that works for the Mountain."

Kevin Robinson stated that the Committee had received a tremendous amount of data and wanted to know when the Committee would be required to make their own recommendation. Mr. Del Bianco stated that it is the intention to break into smaller groups later in the evening to

determine what the ARC would like to see. He asked the group to forget the boundaries for the time being and just focus on what they would like to see happen.

Joanna Maull stated that the Committee has requested to have Saltfleet and Westmount considered and she feels that they have not been receiving what they are asking for. Mr. Del Bianco indicated that the Committee has requested information, even for the schools outside of the ARC, and the Board has worked at providing everything that has been requested from them. Ms. Maull stated that the Committee has requested to have Saltfleet and Westmount added to ARC however they have not been included. They also requested to have the Terms of Reference reopened however that did not happen either. Mr. Del Bianco stated that if the other two schools were added then the process would have to be stopped and the Committee would be starting from scratch with new Committee members. He stated that it was a Trustee decision to keep the Terms of Reference as they are.

Susan Pretula asked at what point are we going to decide the final decision and write the recommendation up officially. Will a member of the Committee be designated to write the recommendation? Mr. Del Bianco indicated that he will be helping to write the recommendation because there are Ministry guidelines that need to be followed but the main part of the recommendation will be directed by the ARC.

Angela Koklis asked Trustee Bishop why starting from scratch is such a bad thing? Trustee Bishop stated that Westmount was excluded because it is over capacity and it has a system-wide program that can not be taken apart. It is also located beside a large recreation centre. If you want to move that program you would need to move the entire school and you would have to displace another school entirely. It is a Program of Choice for a whole school. She shared that the Trustees decided to maintain the Terms of Reference, they could have restricted the Terms of Reference to just three schools and it was decided to open it up to all of the schools except those three. Trustee Bishop understands that the school closure process is an emotional process and a challenging one. Angela Koklis then stated that the program is a self-paced program for gifted students so why can't it be moved. Superintendent Gardner stated that Westmount is not for gifted students. It used to be that way but not any longer. She gave an example of a student's timetable. She shared that the timetable is done in a customized manner and scheduling a school for a self-paced learner can not be designed the same way as a regular school.

It was at this point that the Chair asked the Committee to refrain from asking any further questions about Westmount school.

Trustee Laura Peddle stated that the Chair, Scott Sincerbox asked for Trustee input so she would like to give her input. The Board of Trustees decision to re-establish the Terms of Reference was not a unanimous decision. It was a 4 to 7 vote. There were minutes taken at that meeting and she would see if she could push to have those minutes posted sooner than later. She indicated that this is not directed at Westmount and it was to include Saltfleet as well.

Trustee Wes Hicks stated that when the original vote was put forth it was based on 110-115 per cent capacity and it was passed by all.

Anne Pollard feels that the parents of the special needs students are very busy so they can not make the public meetings. Some of them find it intimidating to speak and they don't trust the system. She also indicated that not all of the parents are newspaper readers, or they don't go on the website and they don't listen to the radio. She went on to say:

- How is the Board making the extra effort to make sure that the disenfranchised parents of any school but particularly of a school like Mountain (where they may constitute the majority of the school population) are being reached for proper consultation?
- Is transportation being provided to public meetings? Childcare?
- Has a special effort been made by the Board to reach out to parents who may be intimidated by the system, who may not know how to navigate it, who may not trust it?
- How many Mountain or Parkview students have been asked if they feel that integration would be a positive step for them at this point in time and what kind of schedule they think they can handle?
- What is the Board doing to ensure that the parents of upcoming students are informed of the process and can access it as well?

Kevin Robinson wanted to know if the programming that Superintendent Gardiner spoke of could be offered in other schools as well.

John Miholics indicated that the Committee would like to change a few things and if the Board of Trustees is not listening to us now then how do we know that they are going to listen to us when we make our recommendations.

Trustee Wes Hicks stated that he has been on the Board for 26 years and he is always looking out for the student's best interest.

Trustee Peddle stated "I guess that we will find that out later."

Susan Pretula spoke of the timing of school closures. She asked that if funding of a new school is contingent on the closing of schools before the building of a new school might occur and Mr. Del Bianco stated that "yes" that could happen. Ms. Pretula asked that at the next public meeting could we provide information such as transportation, day care accommodation, etc.

Gary Deveau stated that people have anxiety and that things are already beginning to happen. They are talking about changing schools, students moving and things are already affected by the Board's recommendation. A lot of people believe that the deal is done especially when they read what is in the newspaper. He says that he finds it insulting that the Board finds it easier to move kids from a vocational school then from a self paced school.

Angela Koklis said that eight years ago the elementary ARC built a new school and moved to a new school as a group before the closing of the old school. Now based on funding that has changed and the Ministry has said that there is no funding for a new school so the Boards have to self fund.

Beverly Bressette said that the Board is talking about closing a school at the end of the school year and opening a new school in September of the same year yet look at how long it took to sell the property by Ivor Wynne Stadium.

Kevin Robinson stated that the schools now have to attain a certain level of capacity. Does this now mean that we have to have the money to build because that will affect the Committee's recommendation? Mr. Del Bianco shared that at this moment in time the Board has not given funding to build or renovate. Mr. Robinson stated that without taking into account all of the buildings that the Board owns how can they make a recommendation. Mr. Del Bianco stated that we can supply a list of excess school properties.

The Chair asked for consensus to let the next three speakers have a turn and then move to the next Agenda item. The Committee agreed.

Brian Greig asked if he could ask question to what the Trustees said. The Chair asked if he could stay away from the Westmount question. He then went on to say that we have been given a 21 page document that we need to look into and that we are not impugning the Trustees. Mr. Greig stated that if we are making a 30-year decision then why are we rushing? Is there a way for the Committee to ask for a change to the Terms of Reference?

Jim Wibberley stated the Terms of Reference are set by the Board of Trustees. There is nothing in the Terms of Reference to prevent you requesting it however the power is still with the Board of Trustees. The question has been raised and voted on already.

Susan Pretula asked if Brian Greig was making a motion. Mr. Greig stated not at this time. She then went on to ask if the Board can use the disposition of revenue for programming or is it strictly bricks and mortar. Is it at the Board's discretion to distribute the funds to both?

Beverly Bressette shared that the buildings that are for sale by the Board are not on the website. She then asked if the Board could provide the Committee with a list of the buildings that were for sale, the years they were for sale and the amount that buildings sold for.

Jim Wibberley stated that school construction is funded the same way that a home is funded. Sale of properties supports the payments as well. The Board of Trustees would ask the same type of things – can we make the payments and they would use the sale of properties to support this as well.

4.3.2. Submissions to the ARC by members of the public – The Chair stated that we have received some inquiries about how members of the public can make formal submissions to the ARCs beyond a brief comment or question at a public meeting. Mr. Wibberley was asked to speak to this item and outline the options. He indicated that the Committee needs to decide if they would like to receive formal submissions and if so how would they like to receive them.

The options were:

1. Set a time to hear delegations at a public meeting. For example delegations could be heard at the third public meeting. These could have a ten minute time limit and allow for a longer written submission to be submitted to the Committee. The Committee

could also offer to receive written submission without a presentation. Delegations would be required to request delegation status and to follow the time limits.

2. The Committee could decide to receive only written submissions.
3. The Committee could decide not to receive delegations or written submission but it should be noted that all correspondence will be forwarded to the Committee.

Susan Pretula asked if the Committee could go with an option 4. "Can we have a public meeting just for delegations?" Mr. Wibberley suggested that it could be done at the public meeting. Susan felt that they would need two public meetings just to hear delegations.

Jackie Brown asked if the delegates have to let the Committee know in advance. She felt that the Committee would like a written proposal. She feels that the full 3 hours should be used for the public meeting.

Al Pierce asked if they need to have two sets of delegations– one at the Education Centre and one at the Public meeting.

Margaret Eagle asked why this could not happen at public meeting number 2 and 3. Mr. Wibberley felt that public meeting number 3 would be more appropriate because the Committee will be coming up with their own recommendations that could be different than the Board's recommendation. Public meeting number 2 is too early because the community will not have the full picture at that time.

Bill Barrett felt that due to the number of requests one meeting may not be enough. Mr. Wibberley stated that it is difficult to determine at this time because we don't know the number of people who would like to present and some may just want to put in a written presentation.

Brian Greig asked if the documents that have been included in the handouts are considered to be input documents. Mr. Wibberley indicated that this correspondence has come through the web site so we have shared them with you.

Anne Pollard wanted to know if students would like to present would it be a conflict for the teachers to support the students. Mr. Wibberley shared that it would be inappropriate for students to present a teacher's idea however it would be appropriate for a teacher to assist a student in preparing to present their own ideas or those of fellow students.

Kevin Robinson stated that the teachers need to be careful with their input because they have been advised to stay neutral and not advise parents and students.

Julia Shen shared that the student representatives can support students in sending input into the ARC via Facebook.

Jim Wibberley feels that a piece needs to be added to the public meeting agenda to support the community in understanding what has taken place at the working Committee meetings up to that date. Jackie Brown stated that the feedback that she received was that the PowerPoint

presentation was too long and the public was unable to read it. The ARC Committee will need someone to present the option as well and Jackie Brown has volunteered to do that.

Susan Pretula stated that at this point the Committee should not be the sacrificial lamb because they are still fact finding. She feels that they need a strategy so it looks professional. She wanted to know if Administration will be answering the questions. Ms. Pretula indicated that she would like to be seen and not sitting in the pit. Mr. Del Bianco shared that resource staff is available however it is the opportunity for the Committee to present their proposed option and to answer questions about their recommendation, similar to the presentation that Associate Director Bain made.

Kevin Robinson would like to distance himself from the Senior Administrative Team. He felt that the ARC Committee should have its own voice and speak for themselves not the Chair or the Resource Staff.

Bill Barrett stated that they will be hearing delegations or speakers so he does not see the members of the Committee being subjected to questions from the public. Mr. Del Bianco shared that the ARC will be presenting their own recommendation and receiving feedback on those options. He stated that if the Committee feels comfortable answering the questions then the Facility Management Team are here as support, as long as the members speak on behalf of the Committee.

Susan Pretula was concerned about the amount of time remaining for the Committee to get together and work on those options. She feels that she needs more time to be prepared prior to answering any questions. Mr. Wibberley stated that September is the date of the 3rd public meeting and it is important to get working on those options. The community may have as many concerns about what the ARC Committee will be recommending as they did about the Senior Administration's recommendations.

The Chair stated that it appears that the Committee is looking to have delegations at the 3rd Public meeting. The guidelines for a Delegate could be:

- They would be required to request delegation status.
- They could submit a written submission
- They could make a 10 minute presentation.

Susan Pretula wanted to know how this would be advertised. The Chair shared that this would need to be taken away. Ms. Pretula the asked if the Committee could request a written submission even for the verbal presentation so that the Committee has an opportunity to review it.

Al Pierce asked if the public could email in a presentation and the Chair informed him that "yes" they could do that.

The Chair then asked for consensus on the above listed guidelines and consensus was given.

5. Presentations

5.1 Demographic and Enrolment Projection Methodology

Daniel Del Bianco made the Demographic and Enrolment Projection Methodology presentation to the Committee. The following points were made:

- The data is derived from historical data.
- After peaking in 2002, elementary enrolment declined by approximately 5%.
- Between 2007 and 2018, Province-wide elementary enrolment is projected to decline by an additional 14%
- Between 1998 and 2007 secondary enrolment increased by 3%
- Province-wide secondary enrolment is projected to decline by 17% by 2018
- Two charts were given which showed the historical and projected Elementary and Secondary Enrolment.
- There were components of enrolment projections given.

- A slide showing Demographic and Housing Trends was shown.
 - Maturing communities – it takes a long time to mature and the turn over is slower. The elderly people stay in their homes longer.
 - New homes have a different yield than mature homes and town homes also have a different yield.
- A map showing Development Plans was included. Development Plans are on the City web site.
- JK Enrolment Trends
 - If JK enrolment declines then everything declines as the years go on. A lot of the information comes from the Census statistics.
 - People are not having as many children.
 - Live births have decreased so there are fewer children and women are having children later in life so the turn over is stretched even further.
 - There are more grade 8's leaving the system than JK s coming into the system.
- Apportionment Rates
 - At the Secondary level there is more fluctuation in enrolment because the students can choose between attending the Elementary Schools or the Secondary Schools – it can be a simple as who has the newer school or the better programs available.
- South ARC Cluster of Schools was a map showing the location of the Secondary Schools.

For a full detail of the presentation please visit the web site or click on the following link:

http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arc/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Item9_Enrol_Demo_Presentation.pdf

5.2 Question and Comments:

Susan Pretula wanted to know if there is any way to track how many students we lose to the separate school system. Mr. Del Bianco shared that there is no real way to track it. Ms. Pretula wanted to know if there was a blip in the enrolment if you build a new school. Mr. Del Bianco stated “yes” however it depends on which Board builds it first.

Joanna Maul asked why there is a huge difference between the elementary level and the secondary level when projecting the future enrolment. Mr. Del Bianco indicated that the building of the 407 had a big impact because Hamilton offers more affordable housing so more people from Toronto are moving in this direction. At the Secondary panel you will lose more students to other School Boards also. The grade 8 classes are smaller than the JK classes. These numbers would be captured in the retention rates however they fluctuate and balance in end. Mr. Del Bianco stated that these are the trends over the last 10 years that are based on factual rates.

Kevin Robinson did some number crunching of his own and figured that the Board would be losing four million dollars with the closing of Sherwood from the funding loss of the students. Mr. Del Bianco stated that this is why he enjoys this process so that everyone is able to share some ideas and clarify information.

Jackie Brown indicated that between 2001 and 2006 there was an increase in secondary aged students so she wanted to know “where did they come from and what school did they go to. Mr. Del Bianco said that he did not know at this time and this would need to be investigated.

Angela Koklis wanted to know if the Board only does these projections due to the ARC process or is it on going and how often is it done. Mr. Del Bianco shared that enrolment projections are done annually due to staffing and funding needs and the Ministry wants updates as well. Ms. Koklis asked if the Committee could be supplied with historical projections to see if what is projected actually comes to fruition. Mr. Del Bianco stated that these enrolment projections are actually an art form. You take the best information that you have available to you, as well as looking at the trends and create a forecast of what is to come. He indicated that the Committee has the actuals in front of them and these can be broken down into schools if requested.

It was at this point in the meeting that the Chair asked if item #6 Pupil Accommodation Options could be differed until the next working group meeting. Consensus to differ was given.

Beverly Bressette wanted to know if the number of students that HWDSB loses to private schools or religious schools was taken into consideration. Mr. Del Bianco stated that the historical data is considered. It may increase a bit one year and then drop the following year.

Trustee Laura Peddle stated that the Board receives reports twice a year so Mr. Del Bianco can acquire that information easily. There was a further comment which stated there is a change coming to the Board’s Transportation Policy, as they move to the Secondary panels, giving the Director discretion for transportation changes so that we can retain the students who start with HWDSB.

Margaret Eagle wanted to know how many students were doing a victory lap of Grade 12. Mr. Del Bianco indicated that 20-30% of Grade 12 students come back for a second year. Ms. Eagle asked if this was a Hamilton number and if so could it be broken out of the overall numbers. Mr. Del Bianco agreed to check the grade 11 to grade 12 enrolments.

7. Correspondence

The Chair shared that we have an email address on the HWDSB website that the public can use to send questions or offer comments on the work of the ARC. Some of these questions are

simple process question which Mr. Wibberley answers and others are questions or comments directed to the committee. We will provide the ARC with emails, letters etc that are directed to the committee under this section of the agenda.

Questions and Comments:

Brian Greig wanted to know if Mr. Wibberley replied to people's emails. Mr. Wibberley replied saying "yes if I do, it is something that I can answer. Mr. Wibberley shared that he only answers simple process questions. If it is comments then he passes them along to the Committee. He does not speak on behalf of the Committee.

Susan Pretula asked if the Committee needs to formalize this so that we have someone who should be addressing these questions and comments. Mr. Wibberley shared that it may be a burden to answer all of the questions and he was not sure if it was a useful thing to do. Mr. Del Bianco stated that the Board works to include all of the comments and if the Committee feels that it should be addressed then as a Committee you can choose to answer them.

The Chair requested consensus to continue to receive the correspondence as it has been given out in the updates. Consensus was given.

He then requested that the meeting be extended to 9:30 and consensus was given to extend the time.

8. Other Business

Anne Pollard spoke of transparency and the Ministry Guidelines. She spoke about Westmount Secondary School at which time the Chair asked Ms. Pollard to refrain from discussing Westmount. Ms. Pollard then went on to read a motion:

Mr. Chair, I would like to move that the South Arc temporarily withdraw from the Secondary Accommodation Review process and seek guidance from the Minister of Education with regards to:

- A) The unequal exclusion of some schools from the ARC process and the board's lack of transparency in doing so;
- B) A Ministry investigation as to whether the Trustees Dec 2009 Committee of the Whole in-camera meeting broke the Ministry's in-camera rules by discussing Terms of Reference to exclude certain schools from the Secondary Accommodation Review.

If Trustees open up the process to include Westmount and Saltfleet at their next March Board meeting the South ARC shall re-engage and attend the April 2011 ARC meeting.

Al Pierce seconded the motion and then went on to read his own statement which is as follows:

This motion is not just about any particular school it is about openness and fairness for this process. We have been asked to do a job which we can't do – the deck has been stacked and our hands have been tied. There isn't one person around this table that doesn't feel this process is not fair or open but this motion isn't about just us it's about our community, about the PIC Committee, about our home and school association and most importantly it's about our children and all the students in our schools. They have all recognized the unfairness of this process. All of these groups are counting on us around this table to do the right thing and put openness and fairness back into this process.

I represent MacNab School and it would be very easy for me to act like a church mouse and just sympathize with the members whose schools are slated to be closed but this is not who I am or who I aspire to be. It would be wrong and not fair for me to carry on when the process is wrong, unfair and not open. I strongly encourage all my fellow committee members to support this motion to bring back fairness and openness back into this process. We are all acting as the voice for our community, schools and students and they want to see this process as being fair and open as we do. Let us not disappoint them.

Trustee Peddle stated that she was one of the four dissenting voices along with Trustee White, Trustee Turkstra, and Trustee Orban. Trustee Peddle went on to say that two of the three trustees, on the South ARC, represent 70% of the student population on the mountain. She indicated that the Terms of Reference can be changed by the Board of Trustees - she raised her voice through formal motion and was not heard but hopefully this Committee will be heard.

Susan Pretula brought up the PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) statement and stated that it is not an official PIC statement. She stated that the Trustee on PIC is not speaking for PIC.

Jim Wibberley asked Anne Pollard what she meant by withdrawal. Ms. Pollard stated that she meant suspend the meetings of this committee until the above listed items are met.

Trustee Laura Peddle stated that she was one of the four dissenting votes with regard to Susan Pretula's comment about PIC. Trustee Peddle shared that Trustee White indicated that it was not an official endorsement however he indicated that he had support from PIC.

Al Pierce stated that the ARC Committee would come here for a year and then not feel free to make an informed decision. He wants openness and fairness.

Kevin Robinson stated his concern that if the ARC were to pause and Westmount were added this would restart the ARC process. He is not happy with the way that things are however by not doing anything is the ARC setting itself up for something even worse.

The Chair requested to extend the meeting another 15 minutes and consensus was given to extend the meeting.

Bill Barrett asked for clarification. He stated that the Ministry of Education sets the guidelines. Is the Board within the guidelines of the Terms of Reference? He shared that the ARC is now asking the Ministry to review the process that they have already put in place. Mr. Wibberley stated that “yes” the Ministry sets the guidelines and the components. Each Board passes the policy and creates a Terms of Reference for the ARC Committee. This Board has acted in total compliance.

Brian Greig asked “who said we can’t change the Terms of Reference.” Mr. Wibberley shared that the Terms of Reference are set by the Board of Trustees. They were in alignment with the guidelines. Mr. Greig stated that they are not attempting to target these schools and the ARC is making a 30 year decision so it may not change the final decision however because there are a number of Committee members who are not happy with this should we be moving forward?

Bill Barrett asked how long it would take to have the Ministry come in and do an investigation. Mr. Wibberley stated that from his experience it would be a fairly lengthy process. He said that the ARC is looking at months not weeks.

Anne Pollard was requested to read the motion again.

Brian Greig stated that the Board of Trustees have an opportunity to revisit this without going through the Ministry.

Julia Shen requested a secret ballot to vote. The Chair was looking for consensus.

Mr. Del Bianco reminded the ARC Committee that this would mean starting over again.

Jackie Brown asked if this would suspend the March 26th Tour. Mr. Wibberley stated that technically the Tour is an “add on” however it could go ahead but this should come from the Committee.

The Chair was looking for consensus on the motion. Consensus was given.

The next item was the School Tour. The Chair asked if the ARC moves ahead with the tour and the consensus was “no.”

Consensus was given to leave item number 8.

Consensus was given to adjourn the meeting.