

**Trillium Lakelands District School Board
Special Meeting of the Board
Public Session**

Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2017
Location: Baxter Ward Community Centre, Port Severn
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Present: S. Binstock, G. Brohman, J. Byrne, L. Clodd, D. Morrison,
B. Reain, J. Saunders, C. Wilcox

Regrets: D. Alton

Administration: W. Browne, D. Golden, L. Hope, B. Kaye, C. Shedden

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDITIONS

17-04-70

C. Wilcox / J. Byrne
THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.
Carried.

4. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

- 4.1. Linda Foster
- 4.2. Peter Koetsier, President, Honey Harbour Association
- 4.3. Paul Elgar
- 4.4. Steve Jarvis, Cognashene Cottagers Association
- 4.5. Katherine Breeson, S.O.S. Save Our Schools, Honey Harbour
- 4.6. Kathy Kay
- 4.7. Mayor Larry Braid, Township of Georgian Bay
- 4.8. Tricia Plumb

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

The following questions and comments were received by the board:

- Concerns expressed over bussing and travel times, as it affects emergency situations, extracurricular involvement, and will be difficult to manage for younger students.
- Clarification requested in regard to rumours of Ministry incentives provided to school boards for closing rural schools in order to open new schools in urban areas. Superintendent of Business

responded, stating that he was not aware of any such funding incentives. He noted, however, that over the past few years, the province has cut back on operational funding, which leaves school boards in a position where they need to close smaller, under-utilized schools in close proximity within larger urban areas, and build or renovate a larger school to accommodate those students using capital funding that the government has provided.

- Paul Elgar indicated that the Ministry of Education has claimed to have increased funding, which begs the question of why Honey Harbour Public School is being targeted for closing, despite the higher operating costs of Glen Orchard Public School. Superintendent of Business Kaye deferred his response until such time as the Ministry's statements could be verified.
- Several people attested to Honey Harbour Public School's unique educational opportunities and how the needs of their students are being met more fully on an individual level due to smaller class sizes, despite having multiple grades in one classroom.
- Concerns were expressed over the Simcoe District School Board's ability and willingness to accept Honey Harbour students. Chair Clodd reported that staff have been in contact with Simcoe County and have been assured that they would be able to accommodate students.
- Peter Koetsier reiterated his concern that the staff report was incomplete in not addressing the option for students to attend Simcoe County schools instead of Glen Orchard Public School. Director of Education Hope clarified that the Trillium Lakelands District School Board does not have jurisdiction over the Simcoe County District School Board and cannot speak on behalf of another board by including such a recommendation in a staff report.
- The board was asked who was responsible for changing school boundaries. Chair Clodd indicated that the municipality would be required to address the Ministry of Education regarding boundary changes.
- Mayor Larry Braid noted that high school students have attended sites that are farther away within the Simcoe County schools and asked if a meeting could be set up with the Simcoe Board to discuss this. Director Hope agreed to have staff look into arranging a meeting.
- ARC member Andrea Elgar felt that the small scale educational innovations at Honey Harbour Public School would be an opportunity lost to a school board if the school is closed and suggested that the school should remain open to serve as a sounding board for programming that could be expanded for other schools.
- The board was asked why the accommodation review process is being rushed, given the recent memo from the Ministry of Education. The board was asked if the process could be revisited once the Ministry's review is under way and it is clear how enrolment will be affected by the closing of the Catholic school. Chair Clodd explained that the Pupil Accommodation Review process began in accordance with the Ministry's mandated timelines prior to the release of the March 6, 2017 and must continue to follow those process timelines.
- Kathy Breeson stressed that the community's preference is to keep the school open, not to concede to sending students to Simcoe County School Board schools.

Chair Clodd thanked the community and the ARC members for their input and stated that all information that has been presented during the Pupil Accommodation Review process will be taken into consideration by trustees.

6. ADJOURNMENT

17-04-71 B. Reain / S. Binstock
 THAT THE BOARD DO NOW ADJOURN AT 8:03 P.M.
 Carried.

Louise Clodd, Chairperson of the Board

Larry Hope, Director of Education

Wendy Browne, Recording Secretary