

**Accommodation Review Committee (ARC)
Honey Harbour Public School
ARC Public Meeting # 2**

**February 21, 2017
6:30 p.m.**

**Baxter Ward
Community Centre**

Facilitator: Michael (Mike) Ash

ARC Members: Linda Foster, Andrea Elgar, Tricia Fenn, Amy McDonald

Resource Staff: Larry Hope, Dave Golden, Bob Kaye, Catherine Shedden, Deb Wines

Trustees: John Byrne, Louise Clodd, David Morrison

Staff Support: Wendy Browne

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / DECISION / ACTION
Meeting was called to order at 6:37p.m.	
	Accommodation Review Committee members were provided with updated Honey Harbour Public School Information Profile and documentation for their Information binders.
Welcome & Introductions	Facilitator Ash welcomed Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) members, staff, trustees, and guests to the meeting. Facilitator Ash introduced Trillium Lakelands District School Board staff who will act as resources during ARC meetings. These included: Director of Education Larry Hope, Superintendent of Business Services Bob Kaye, Superintendent of Learning Dave Golden, District Manager Catherine Shedden, Principal of Honey Harbour Public School and Glen Orchard Public School Deb Wines, and Administrative Assistant Wendy Browne.
Approval of Minutes of February 13, 2017	Minutes of the Honey Harbour Accommodation Review Committee Orientation Meeting on February 13, 2017 were sent to members for review. There were no errors or omissions. Approved by Linda Foster, seconded by Tricia Fenn. All in favour. Carried.
Meeting Norms	Facilitator Ash reviewed the meeting norms that will be adhered to in all meetings and the process of delegations made.

<p>Accommodation Review Process</p>	<p>Facilitator Ash reviewed the ARC process and explained that this process was based on the pupil accommodation review policy, in accordance with the Ministry of Education’s mandate. A recommendation was made to trustees by staff on October 25, 2016 that Honey Harbour Public School be closed at the end of the 2016/2017 school year and students will be transferred to Glen Orchard Public School for September 2017. The committee was then struck, has received information from the community, and will draft a report to present to trustees with responses and alternate recommendations. At the April 25, 2017 board meeting, the trustees will vote on the recommendations and alternatives presented by the staff and the ARC.</p>
<p>Presentations</p>	<p>All presentations from the public were provided in written copy for review by the ARC and will be made available on the board website.</p>
<p>Muskoka Family Focus, Jennifer Brush</p>	<p>Statistics on family visits to Ontario Early Years programs were provided by Ms. Brush to indicate the increased visitations by individual families with young children in the area.</p> <p>Link to full presentation</p>
<p>Honey Harbour Association – Peter Koetsier</p>	<p>In addition to the 15 arguments from his initial presentation at the first public meeting, Mr. Koetsier questioned the relevance of the board’s indication of decreased enrollment across Ontario as it is not reflected within the Honey Harbour community. Furthermore, Mr, Koetsier felt that alternatives that would avoid the extensive bussing requirements to transport students to Glen Orchard Public School have not been considered in the staff’s recommendations. He felt that the mandated ARC process is not reflective of the needs of the unique situation surrounding this remote community and that representation from the Ministry of Education and the Simcoe County District School Board or other school boards should be involved in this process.</p> <p>Link to full presentation</p>
<p>Township of Georgian Bay – Kathy Kay</p>	<p>Ms. Kay reported that the township has passed two unanimous motions requesting a moratorium on the ARC process, as well as discussion between Trillium Lakelands District School Board and Simcoe County District School Board regarding the transfer of students to schools in the other district to avoid the impractical bussing requirements of transporting students to Glen Orchard Public School.</p>

	Link to full presentation
Save Our Schools in Honey Harbour – Katherine Breeson	<p>A deconstruction of the proposed conditions provided by Trillium Lakelands DSB as validation for the closure of the school was presented by Ms. Breeson, with focus on the level of education provided to students and recognition of the staff at Honey Harbour Public School. Ms. Breeson felt that closing the school does not reflect the mandate presented on the board’s website and proposed a moratorium to better understand how a school closure would affect the community, particularly so closely following the closure of the Catholic school.</p> <p>Link to full presentation</p>
Ontario Alliance Against School Closures – Susan Mackenzie/Katherine Breeson	<p>Ms. Breeson reported that the Alliance is currently lobbying the government to call for a moratorium on school closures in rural, northern and small communities until funding can be restored. The Alliance asks that Trillium Lakelands District School Board set an example to other boards undergoing reviews of schools in rural communities.</p> <p>Link to full presentation</p>
Honey Harbour Public School Student Group – Colin Breeson and Spencer Lawley	<p>On behalf of Mr. Lawley and other students who were unable to attend, Mr. Breeson expressed that Honey Harbour Public School is a unique environment that provides unique experiences and adequately prepares students for high school and beyond.</p> <p>Link to full presentation</p>
Madeline Elgar	<p>The report provided by Trillium Lakelands District School Board does not reflect the level of education experienced by students and the benefits of the individual attention students receive at the Honey Harbour Public School, which would not be possible in a larger school. Closure of the school would be detrimental to the Honey Harbour community.</p> <p>Link to full presentation</p>
Paul Elgar	<p>Contrary to the staff’s responses to various questions that have been presented, Mr. Elgar believes that Honey Harbour Public School is well attended and is not being underutilized. Also, Mr. Elgar feels that funding information from the board does not reflect the funds that the community contributes to the board.</p> <p>Link to full presentation</p>

Break at 7:37pm, reconvened at 7:50pm	
Questions and Answers	<p>Facilitator Ash advised that the school board staff have provided answers to questions received prior to the meeting, as follows, and invited further questions using the public input form available at the back of the room.</p> <p>What is the current cost for TLDSB of bussing to HHPS? RESPONSE: The current cost for TLDSB of bussing to Honey Harbour Public School is \$65,000.</p> <p>The map in 1.7.a of the School Information Profile needs to be updated. RESPONSE: An update has been received from the Township of Georgian Bay and the School Information Profile for Honey Harbour Public School has been updated to reflect the correct magnified area</p> <p>Facilitator Ash read the following questions received from the public at the present meeting:</p> <p>What municipal consultation have you done prior to this review process? Where is the documentation?</p> <p>We have learned that the high school in Bracebridge has a declining population with increasingly growing available space, and this is apparently also true in the Lindsay area schools like LCVI. Is the board considering consolidating its school board offices in Lindsay and Bracebridge into those school spaces and lease or sell their management offices to ensure that students can continue to be educated in their community and school board management can adapt?</p> <p>You say you value the “uniqueness and diversity of our students and our community.” How does this decision to close Honey Harbour Public School align with this value?</p> <p>Have crime rates among youth been considered in this process? If children are deeply turned off school due to onerous travel requirements, the children of Honey Harbour may be at elevated risk for crime, given the high correlation between poor educational achievement/drop-out rate and crime rates. Has a qualified psychologist been asked to provide a risk assessment in this regard?</p> <p>Facilitator Ash advised that these questions required further review by the staff in order to provide adequate responses, which will then be shared with the ARC and become part of the report, and will be posted on the board website.</p>

<p>Next Steps</p>	<p>Facilitator Ash explained that the ARC would be developing a report that includes the minutes of all meetings, all correspondence, and all copies of presentations received. The ARC members will craft a report based on the information heard at these meetings that includes a response to the board's staff recommendations and alternatives to the recommendations, followed by key elements that the community wishes for the trustees to consider in the transition process, should closure of the school be required.</p> <p>This report will be worked on and submitted to staff on February 28, 2017. At the March 21, 2017 board meeting, a final report will be presented to trustees. This report will include the ARC report, all presentations and correspondence received.</p> <p>A special board meeting will occur on April 4, 2017 at the Baxter Community Centre, where members of the public may present to trustees. Information and application to delegate at this meeting will be forthcoming.</p> <p>The final staff report will be presented on April 25, 2017 at the board meeting in Lindsay, Ontario. The trustees will review the information received and vote on the outcome. Facilitator Ash noted that, although trustees are welcome to attend the ARC meetings, the Ministry guidelines have removed trustees from the review process itself, however, all trustees are provided with the report documentation for review prior to the final board meeting.</p> <p>Director Hope noted that board meetings take place at the Lindsay Education Centre. Video conferencing is available at the Muskoka Education Centre. Kathy Kay offered the use of local municipal office for the board meeting. Facilitator Ash noted that the board meetings are also available by live webcast on the board website.</p> <p>Kathy Kay suggested that a next possible step could be to address the ombudsman office.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>8:38 p.m.</p>